

'Border is open, not legally but factually'

Kurds flooding into Turkey despite closure

By ANDREW FINKEL IN ANKARA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A QUARTER of a million Kurds were said last night to have crossed into Turkey from Iraq, even though the Ankara government continued to insist that it could not accept a mass influx.

"The Turkish border is open — not legally, but factually," the regional governor, Hayri Kozakcioglu, said. Some 246,000 refugees had been allowed in from northern Iraq and another 150,000 were on the way.

A Turkish army officer said a camp for 100,000 had been set up and truckloads of people were being moved there, but the refugees were not being allowed beyond the immediate border zone.

Ankara has repeatedly said that it cannot cope with the vast numbers of people struggling across the snow-covered mountains to escape President Saddam Hussein's forces. It has demanded international action, both to deal with the

refugees and to put pressure on Saddam to end the violence that is driving the people from their homeland. In the absence of such action, Turkey has declared its border closed, but the real status of the frontier remains confused.

The United Nations high commissioner for refugees said Turkey was obliged to admit the refugees. "In the case of a massive influx, there are humanitarian and international obligations incumbent upon states to grant asylum and safe haven," a senior official said. The commissioner, Sadako Ogata, said: "The borders are probably not completely open, but there seem to be possibilities of crossing."

The flight from Iraq continued unabated yesterday, in spite of an amnesty announced by the ruling revolutionary command council. Baghdad offered to pardon Kurds, other than those who had committed murder, rape and looting during acts of riot and treason, saying that those who had fled abroad had two weeks to report back to the Iraqi authorities.

A Kurdish Democratic Party spokesman in Syria said the offer was a sick joke. "The fleeing Kurds have witnessed massacres. They have been hunted down by Iraqi helicopters while they were escaping to the hills. They will not return so long as Saddam is in power. They would rather die of hunger and cold than be killed by his army."

Nato yesterday took the toughest line of any international body so far in denouncing Iraq's treatment of the Kurds. A statement issued after a meeting of ambassadors from the 16 member nations in Brussels said that Nato held the Iraqi government responsible for massive violations of human rights and added that every pressure must be brought to bear by the international

community to stop the repression without delay.

Later, the United Nations Security Council considered a French draft resolution condemning the repression of Iraqi civilians and insisting that Baghdad "engage in open dialogue to ensure the human and political rights of all citizens are respected". The draft, which was expected to be the subject of a close vote, also calls on Iraq to allow international humanitarian organisations access to all those in need of help.

Besides the plight of the Kurds, the International Committee of the Red Cross fears for people all over Iraq, and it issued a statement yesterday saying there were "clear warning signs of a major health catastrophe."

A Red Cross team carrying emergency relief is moving north from Baghdad to Kurdistan to assess needs there. Two British plane loads of supplies touched down in Ankara yesterday, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, appealed for more money to help the refugees. The UN's Sadako Ogata also appealed for \$43 million (£24 million) to provide shelter and food.

Kurdish leaders said that 120 children had died near the city of Ramdi, 20 miles from the Iranian border, but there were no accurate figures available for the numbers who had succumbed to the cold, hunger and Saddam's helicopter gunships.

The rebels insisted, however, that the fight against Saddam would continue, even though the uprising appeared to have been crushed. "Our people are dying constantly, but this does not mean that we will surrender or abandon our resistance to the terrorism of Saddam," a Kurdish Democratic Party spokesman said.

Amnesty rejected, page 6
Leading article and Letters, page 9

US divided over neutral stance

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE first opinion polls on President Bush's refusal to help the Kurdish rebels yesterday showed an American people torn between a desire to put the Gulf war behind them and alarm at the atrocities being perpetrated by President Saddam Hussein.

The results offered some encouragement to Mr Bush, whose hands-off policy is being widely condemned in the American media. A poll in *The Washington Post* showed 69 per cent support for the president's attitude to the postwar civil disorder in Iraq. However, detailed questions showed less of a consensus.

Fifty-five per cent said the United States should not have ended the war with Saddam still in power. Asked if America should help the Kurdish and Shia rebels overthrow Saddam, 45 per cent said yes and 51 per cent said no. Among the 45 per cent who thought the United States should help the rebels, there was 78 per cent support for grounding Iraqi helicopter gunships, 71 per cent support

for sending US military advisers to help the rebels and 63 per cent support for supplying them with weapons.

A smaller *USA Today* poll showed 55 per cent support for non-intervention. The president said on Thursday that he would not allow "precious American lives" to be "sucked into an Iraqi civil war. A spokesman said: "It would be the height of Vietnam folly."

But even as Mr Bush headed for yet another salute to American armed forces in Los Angeles yesterday, the media onslaught continued. *The Washington Post* carried no less than four separate columns denouncing his lack of action.

However, Samir al-Khalil, a leading Iraqi academic, said there were tens of thousands of refugees in the area of Iraq occupied by United States forces. "I am convinced that if they are abandoned to Iraqi forces, they will be murdered, utterly and completely... what you have there is another Cambodia."



Atlantic fury: storm-force winds send huge waves crashing into the Four Lighthouse, forming a wall of foam off the Finistère coast, north-western France

Refuge in the snowy peaks

Kurds wounded as they fled have found a haven. Michael Binyon reports from Hakkari on the Turkish frontier

They lie silent on their beds in the scruffy mountain hospital, crushed by the enormity of what they have seen and endured.

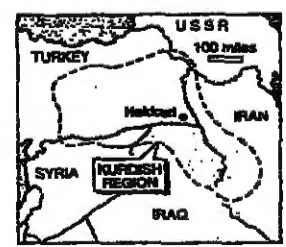
Nesh Salema is only 25 but looks 40. Her eyes are dulled, her story horrifying. With thousands of other Kurds, she fled in terror from President Saddam Hussein's troops a week ago, carrying her four-year-old boy on her back. The Iraqi soldiers began firing as she struggled up the mountain pass. A bullet hit her chest and she fell to the ground, her child with her. When she regained consciousness the child was gone and she has never seen him again. She presumes he is dead.

Across the ward, a young mother who would not give her name nurses her little boy. He lies curled up, silent, his neck bandaged where bullets hit him.

She has four children, but the others are separated from her now and are safe, she hopes, with her mother and thousands of other refugees in the makeshift camp on the bare mountainside in Semdinli about 60 miles away from the Iraqi border. She has not seen her husband since they fled from Dahuk. The Turks separated him. Few of the men have been allowed in with their families.

"He cries for his father everyday. Where is he? Where is he?" she said. "Where shall I go in Turkey? What shall I do here?" She told me of a terrible night.

Continued page 20, col 1



'Genocide' protesters ransack embassy office

By PETER VICTOR

THIRTY-ONE Kurdish demonstrators, protesting at what they said was Saddam Hussein's genocide of Kurds in Iraq, were arrested yesterday after they stormed and ransacked Iraqi embassy premises in Kensington, central London.

Fourteen occupied an adjoining annex to the embassy for three and a half hours, surrendering to armed police after it was agreed that they could about their grievances to waiting press from a fifth floor window.

The demonstrators charged the building, at 9.30am. A group of 50 men overpowered four policemen, two of them armed, on duty outside the embassy. They failed to get into the embassy proper at 21 Queen's Gate but 14 of them forced a door on number 22, an adjoining annex. A further 30 demonstrators were prevented from forcing their way in. They threw documents and pictures of Saddam out of

windows, setting fire to some as well as to the Iraqi flag. Police surrounded the building and shut off all surrounding roads. Armed officers, Special Branch and Territorial Support Group officers were called in.

Kate Weatherell, aged 26, manager of Bistrot 190 in Queen's Gate, said: "I saw about 20 of them running in through the door shouting and screaming. They were hanging out of windows on the third floor and throwing files and documents onto the street. For a while the pavement below looked like it was on fire because they had thrown so much burning paper out."

Zahir Ibrahim, Iraqi charge d'affaires, and his two non-diplomatic support staff remained in the embassy proper guarded by two armed police officers. Armed police entered the building through the basement of the adjoining embassy and established that the demonstrators had barricaded

themselves into an office on the fifth floor. Police negotiators were brought in under armed guard to speak to them. Shortly after midday the demonstrators indicated their willingness to give themselves up if they could speak to the assembled press. A protester speaking through a megaphone from a window said: "We are a peaceful people. Saddam is killing our people. The international community has a responsibility and should stop the genocide. We need your help."

At 12.50pm the first of the demonstrators appeared, flanked by two TSG officers in riot gear, his hands bound by plastic handcuffs. The last was removed at 1.50pm.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alan Fry, in charge of police operation, confirmed that five ammunition had been found inside the embassy but could not confirm the protesters' claims about bombs in the building. Gunfire from the Iraqi Consulate in Istanbul killed a protester as demonstrators stoned the building. Shots also were fired at demonstrators at the Iraqi Embassy in Prague.

Photograph, page 6

Stranded seamen rescued by helicopter

By LIN JENKINS

STORMS sweeping across the Atlantic brought high winds and driving rain to the west coast of Ireland, south-west England, and northern France yesterday.

The master and some of the crew of a French factory ship were forced to abandon ship when gales smashed her onto rocks off southern Ireland. Most of the 60 men aboard had already been lifted off by helicopter.

The captain and some of his crew stayed aboard the ship, the *Capitaine Fleury II*, to monitor a salvage operation as pumping gear was brought in. But a strong swell threatened to sink the vessel.

The captain and his remaining crew were airlifted by three RAF and Irish Air Corps helicopters to Black Head in Galway Bay. Harvey O'Keefe, a commandant with the Irish Air Corps, described the rescue as "a difficult but textbook exercise".

The London Weather Centre forecast last night that more storms were on the way with heavy showers.

Photograph, page 3

Yeltsin routs his communist foes

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin triumphantly turned the tables on his hard-line communist opponents yesterday by persuading an overwhelming majority of Russian legislators to grant him extra power and agree to holding early elections for a stronger presidency in the republic.

The 607-228 vote in his favour came on the final day of a Congress of the Russian Federation, which had been convened by old-guard communists in a clear attempt to oust him as chairman of the legislature in the biggest Soviet republic. "This congress was summoned to remove Yeltsin and it has ended up by giving him more authority," one deputy exclaimed in amazement.

Mr Yeltsin, in a surprise move on Thursday, asked the congress to confer extra authority on himself and the republic's standing parliament. He also proposed that a fresh congress be held in May to prepare for presidential elections, which he is widely tipped to win, on June 12.

Radical supporters of Mr Yeltsin said yesterday's victory reflected fear by some communists, who until recently had successfully blocked all discussion of an elected Russian presidency, that their tactics could provoke fury among their constituents.

Mr Yeltsin towers above President Gorbachev in personal popularity and is widely seen as the only man who can ease a wave of industrial unrest, which threatens to cripple the economy. The scale of his victory suggested strongly that he had benefited not only from defections from the hard-core communists, but also from a co-ordinated change of tactics by the communist establishment.

The hard-liners could have blocked all discussion of new presidential powers by walking out and denying the congress a quorum. Some may have been influenced by reports that Mr Yeltsin would resign if he was thwarted.

Power trade-off, page 5

Computer helps Britain to read Jade's lips

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT



Look who's talking: baby Jade from the commercial

A BABY with computer-generated lips is urging the population to fill in and return their 1991 census forms. Jade, a three-month-old baby girl, is real enough but her convincing lip movements come courtesy of Harry and Alias, two computer systems at the forefront of animation technology.

Without these sophisticated electronic tools Jade would have had to wait two years or more to form naturally the facial movements and words arguing that census completion is important. The commercial is believed to be the first of its kind and is being heralded as a landmark in animating a real and synthetic world. Researchers predict that in a few years it might be possible to computer generate convincingly past

or Bogart, and cast them with living stars in feature films.

The census commercial is the brainchild of the advertising agency DMBB and animators at Rushes, a television post production company in London. The agency examined several techniques to make the baby talk, including trying to superimpose a child's lips, but none appeared convincing or aesthetic. Rushes believed it could harness techniques used for a recent Lyon's Tea commercial in which a computer animated teapot danced within a "real world".

A series of traditional line drawings of lip movements were put on video which acted as a guide over which two computer-generated models were created and shaped to fit Jade's face, frame by frame. "One represented the top lip and surrounding muscle and one the lower

lip," Ellen Poon, the animator, said. The difficult task of adding the delicate skin colours and shades of the baby's skin was done using a technique known as texture mapping. The tones of the real lips were painstakingly lifted from film of Jade and onto the lip models taking shape on the Alias computer.

The final steps involved switching the models into the Harry computer where they were blended with the live footage of Jade's face. The voice of an eight-year-old girl was matched with the film.

Roy Prince, of Rushes, said techniques being used were opening up new possibilities in television and film "allowing people to produce effects they have never seen before". It took more than four weeks to make the 750 frames of animation for the 30-second commercial but advances in computer technology could soon make this faster.

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Ridley warning of poll tax backlash shows rightwing bitterness



Ridley: poll tax has been dealt a 'thousand cuts'

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A POLITICAL backlash would be unleashed when details of the new local government tax became known, Nicholas Ridley, the former environment secretary, said yesterday as ministers prepared for crucial talks on the replacement for the community charge.

Mr Ridley, who introduced the community charge, accused Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, of dealing the poll tax a thousand cuts by losing his challenge for the Tory leadership upon abolishing the tax. Environment department and Treasury officials

have been preparing papers for a meeting at Downing Street on Tuesday chaired by the prime minister, to determine the shape of the new people and property tax.

Mr Ridley's intervention, in an article in the *Municipal Journal*, will anger ministers trying to limit the damage caused to the government by the dispute over local government finance. It has again exposed deep bitterness on the Tory right towards Mr Heseltine.

Senior ministers accept that the cooler-than-expected response to the Budget decision to reduce poll tax bills arose from public uncertainty over the make-up of its

replacement and the extent to which the poll tax element would disappear. Ministers will next week finalise the consultation papers on local government finance and structure.

The key decision involves the proportions of the new local tax that will be accounted for by the property and people elements. Mr Heseltine believes that the higher the property element the easier it would be to convince the public that the poll tax had gone forever.

Other decisions centre on whether those who now pay only 20 per cent of the tax should continue to do so or be exempted,

and the name of the new tax. One suggestion gaining support among Tory MPs is that it should be called the "council tax".

Ministers acknowledged yesterday that the result of the Neath by-election, held by Labour with a reduced majority but with the Welsh nationalists jumping to second place ahead of the Conservatives, had done little to advance the likelihood of an early general election. The result has underlined the difficulties the Conservatives face in trying to hold the Welsh seat of Monmouth at a by-election expected in June.

Mr Ridley argued that local

authorities faced a further period of upheaval and uncertainty because of the decision to abolish the charge. He said that the Budget injection of funds should have been used to improve the rebate system and help the less well-off.

Mr Heseltine could not possibly have swallowed his pride if the government had simply made the community charge acceptable, Mr Ridley said. "So the absurd decision was taken, both to make it almost acceptable for electoral reasons and to scrap it and replace it in the longer term."

Neath analysis, page 4



Heseltine: keen to convince public that the tax has gone

IRA blamed as wave of bombs hits big stores

By RONALD FAUX AND QUENTIN COWDRY

POLICE believe the IRA was responsible for the wave of firebombs which detonated in seven shops in Manchester early yesterday, it emerged last night. If so, the attacks mark yet another tactical change in the organisation's mainland campaign.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police sources said that they were quite confident that the IRA was to blame. A team of detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch flew to Manchester to help local police hunt for the fire-bombers.

Nine incendiary devices went off in seven stores, five of them in the Arndale Centre. No one was injured and serious damage was caused by only one explosion after automatic sprinkler systems extinguished most of the fires. A tenth device was made safe at Littlewoods store and last night police were investigating a further alert at a football shop run jointly by Manchester United and City football clubs.

Police are examining the possibility of a link between the nine explosions, which went off between 12.40am and 3.17am, and the discovery of 20 fire bombs in a holdall at Preston railway station on Wednesday night. The holdall had been abandoned on platform three near the London-Carlisle express. One of the devices had started to smoke. It was dealt with by station staff, using a fire extinguisher.

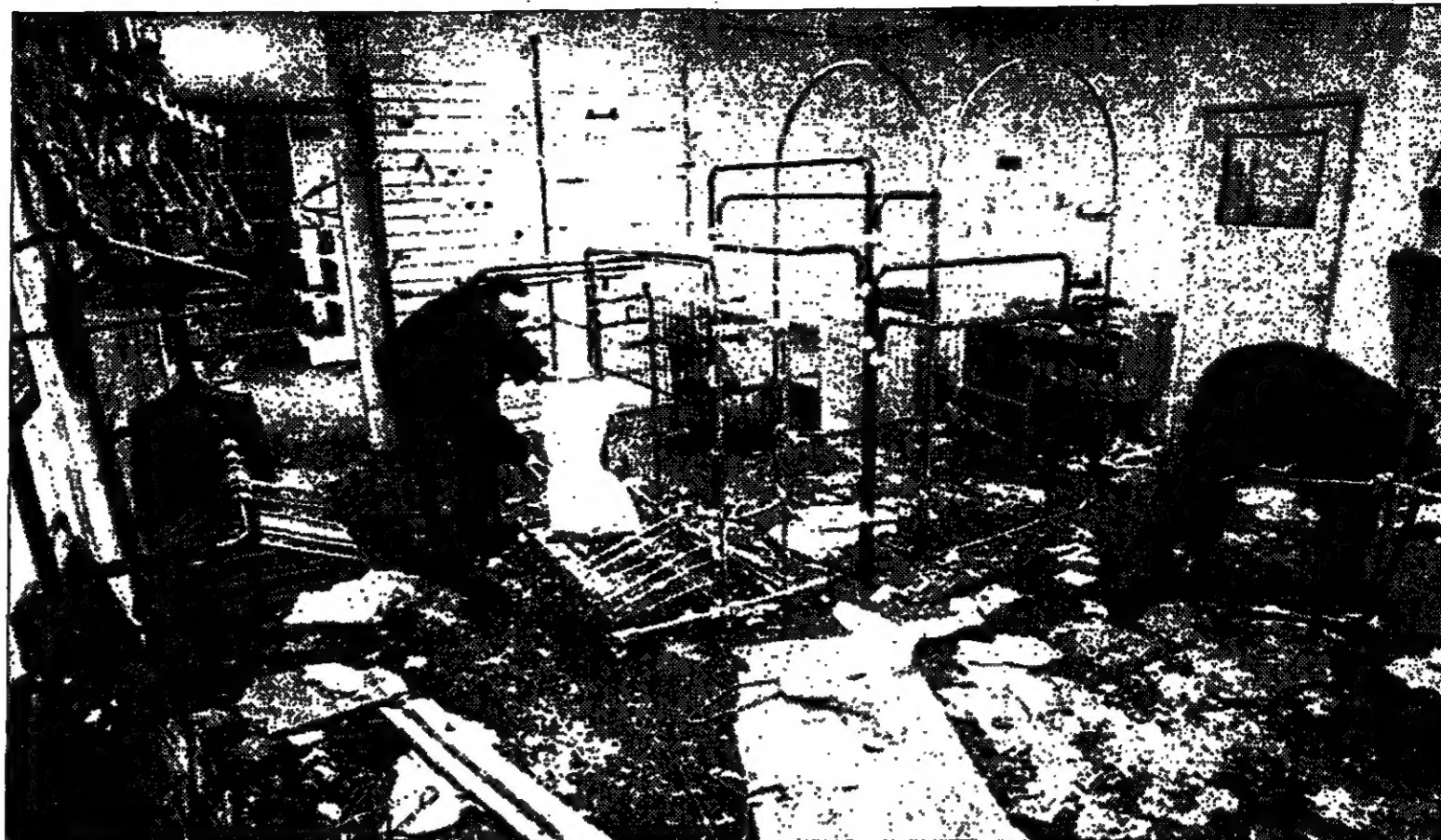
Two men in their 30s with Irish accents are being hunted after the discovery of the

smouldering holdall. One police theory is that the culprits planted devices — which have a timing mechanism — in the Manchester shops, took a train to Preston and then waited for a train to take them north. The devices in the bag started to go off accidentally late on Wednesday and they dumped it before making their escape, police believe.

In the centre of Manchester yesterday, police sealed off the Arndale Centre and surrounding streets and bomb squad specialists searched the stores. They were preparing to reopen yesterday but were closed again when army bomb disposal teams were called to deal with the suspect package at Littlewoods.

The worst damage was caused at Slater's men's store in Dale Street, close to the Arndale Centre. Russell McKinlay, assistant manager, said: "The whole place is ruined. Our first impression is that it has been completely wiped out. All our clothing stock worth several hundred thousand pounds has been ruined." The store employs 50 staff. Other premises damaged by the fires included BHS, Burtons, Debenhams, Millets and River Island. Managers called for extra vigilance by staff but the Arndale Centre remained closed throughout the day.

Police said that the devices had been placed in clothing or in soft furnishings. Officers are believed to be studying video film taken by automatic security cameras in the Arndale Centre and in the stores that were attacked.



Shopworkers assessing damage after nine incendiary devices went off in seven stores within three hours in the centre of Manchester

Police have appealed for passengers on the Euston to Carlisle train, which left London at 7.30pm on Wednesday, to contact them.

The smouldering holdall was found six minutes after the express arrived at Preston. It had been delayed 53 minutes. Det Chief Supt Norman Finnerty, head of Lancashire CID, said the devices had probably been dumped after one of them started to go off.

The Carlisle train had been diverted via Birmingham and arrived at Preston at 11.14pm. The bag was found alongside the train where the first class section joined the buffet car. Lancashire police were anxious to trace two men seen at the station at about 8pm. One was carrying a blue holdall similar to the one which had contained the devices. Mr Finnerty said that the train stopped at Lancaster and Carlisle, both of which had connecting services to North-

ern Ireland ferries. Last night, branches of Debenhams and Burtons across the country were put on alert. Pictures of the devices, understood to be the size of an audio cassette and wrapped in brown paper, have been issued to staff.

Rain hampered emergency repair teams which were attempting yesterday to make habitable houses — many of them elderly and disabled people's sheltered dwellings — which were damaged by an IRA van bomb in Banbridge, Co Down, on Thursday. Also wrecked were four of the market town's main public buildings, the court house, fire station, library and a swimming pool.

Two warning calls telling of a 1,000lb bomb were received at news rooms in Belfast but they were described as inadequate by David Trimble, the local Unionist MP. He was attending a party meeting 100 yards from the van bomb.

New target an old, old tactic

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

IF THE Manchester firebomb attacks were the IRA's work, they underline the importance the organisation is placing on constantly changing tactics in its mainland campaign.

Since the campaign began in August 1989, the IRA has murdered an MP, tried to assassinate a retired general and senior diplomat, attacked military recruiting offices, bombed the Stock Exchange and the Carlton club, exploded devices on railway stations and fired mortar bombs at 10 Downing Street.

The policy of switching targets seems to reflect the IRA's keenness to maintain a high level of media interest in its activities as much as a determination to wrong-foot

the security forces. It also shows that the organisation has no shortage of weapons or munitions on the mainland.

Incendiary devices, a standard IRA weapon, have been used with devastating effect in Northern Ireland in recent years as militant republicans have tried to undermine the province's renewed economic confidence. Fourteen stores in and around Belfast were fire-bombed three months ago, causing damage estimated at £25 million. The devices, detonated by timers, can be smuggled into shops and concealed easily.

Anti-terrorist detectives believe there are at least two IRA gangs operating on the mainland. They are likely to

be working independently of one another and with minimal, if any, contact with senior IRA members in the Irish republic or in Ulster.

There have been nearly 30 IRA mainland strikes since the bombing of the Mill Hill Army barracks, in April, London, in August 1988. Fifteen people have been killed.

In a recent edition of *An Phoblacht*, the weekly tabloid Republican News, a leading IRA activist said: "We will not allow ourselves to be held to one tactic. Our intention is to keep the enemy guessing. We will spread the Crown forces into guarding as many areas as possible. Stretch them to the utmost. Nibble and bite at them from every angle."

Channel rail link choice in a month

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail will make its final decision within a month on which of the four proposed routes for the Channel tunnel high-speed rail link should be built, Gilt Howarth, BR's rail link project director, said yesterday.

The route will then be submitted for endorsement to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, accompanied by a request to make the decision public before the summer recess, in expectation of a hybrid bill to be submitted to Parliament next spring.

Decisions on how to finance the multi-billion pound link will be made when the hybrid bill is close to receiving royal assent, he said. The project will be financed by borrowing from the Treasury, financial backing from the private sector, or a combination of the two.

Mr Howarth said that British Rail was no longer backing its preferred route through south London, as unveiled in March 1989. Instead it had spent about £5 million examining which of the four options would be in the best long-term interests of international passenger and freight traffic in Britain.

Mr Howarth would not be drawn on which of the four routes, or what combination of them, BR was likely to recommend.

Bowbelle radio call

A radio message from the bridge of the Bowbelle minutes after she collided with the pleasure cruiser Marchioness said that flashing lights on another pleasure boat had been a distraction, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Jurors were read a transcript of the broadcast made three minutes after the collision. It was not known whether the message was broadcast by the Bowbelle's master, Douglas Henderson, or someone else on board the bridge. The trial continues on Monday.

Drugs tragedy

Mary Moore, aged 50, died in agony from cancer because her children sold her painkilling drug, Southampton Crown court was told yesterday. Her son Robert, aged 26, and daughter Danielle, aged 27, of Southampton, gave her diluted amounts of morphine so they could sell the rest. They admitted stealing and supplying diamorphine and were given 12-month suspended prison sentences.

Car sales slump

New car sales fell again last month despite a late surge by buyers wishing to avoid increased VAT charges. Total sales in March were 168,854, a fall of 19.1 per cent compared with the same month last year. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said yesterday. They were not as bad, however, as those in January and February, when there were falls of 20.8 per cent and 25.8 per cent.

CORRECTION

Empress Farah

The former Empress of Iran, Shahbano Farah Pahlavi, asks us to say that she denies having sold jewels, directly or indirectly, to the wife of President Saddam Hussein. *The Times* on March 29 said that Mrs Saddam had bought the jewels of the former Shah's wife. The former Empress would also like us to say that the \$320m alleged to have been paid for the jewels was "contrary to what might be construed as a reasonable value of what Her Majesty possesses or ever possessed".

By the way, the jewels were sold to the wife of President Saddam Hussein. The former Empress would also like us to say that the \$320m alleged to have been paid for the jewels was "contrary to what might be construed as a reasonable value of what Her Majesty possesses or ever possessed".

Lions' lure continues strong after 25 years

By JOHN YOUNG

ON A grey, blustery April day, with no hint of African warmth or sunshine, the lions of Longleat celebrated their silver jubilee yesterday.

More accurately, the rejoicing fell to a pride of human VIPs and other visitors who were driven through Britain's oldest safari park in a convoy of coaches before retreating for lunch in the library of the great Elizabethan house. The lions sat around on the wet grass under the dripping trees and, as lions do, looked indifferent.

Perhaps their guardian sympathised. Lord Bath, aged 86, was ill in bed with a sore throat and a high temperature at his home at Job's Mill on the 500-acre Wiltshire estate and had to miss the party. The Marquess's sons, Viscount Weymouth and Lord Christopher Thynne, carried in a 30lb birthday cake — appropriately shaped like Marquis, one of the safari park's most famous lions.

On April 5, 1966, amid controversy and scepticism, the Marquess opened what was said to be the world's first drive-through wild animal park. Other animals, such as tigers, elephants, hippopotamuses, giraffes, zebras, camels, monkeys and Canadian timber wolves, were later introduced to the 100-acre park and have long since bred successfully.

There is a view in some quarters that safari parks are passé, but Roger Cawley, director of the Longleat park, said yesterday he thought they still had a future. Longleat attracted some 400,000 visitors a year, and there was no sign of any long-term decline.

Leading article, page 9

Fission to speed missions to Mars

A safer, more powerful nuclear rocket that can cut travel time to Mars from 500 to 150 days is in the making, Nigel Hawkes assesses its scientific and strategic values

NUCLEAR rockets, whose development as part of the Strategic Defence Initiative was disclosed this week, provide enormous power, a hair-trigger response and can be made to measure for any mission.

They are likely to provide the thrust for SDI's laser weapons and for manned missions to Mars next century. Franklin Chang-Diaz, a NASA astronaut, working on nuclear propulsion, believes that a nuclear rocket could cut the travel time to Mars from 500 days to 150, and give crews greater safety margins. "We're probably going to lose a crew if we have a rinky-dink kind of motor," he told *Aviation Week and Space Technology*.

Nuclear rockets pack as much power as a nuclear station into a volume hardly bigger than a domestic refrigerator, and are ready for instant action. They are also complex, expensive and likely to face opposition on environmental grounds. American policy has been that nuclear rockets should not be used in the Earth's atmosphere. That policy will have to change if the rockets, which the arms control group, the Federation of American Scientists, says are being developed for SDI system, are ever to be deployed.

The heart of a nuclear rocket is a pressure vessel full of pellets of fuel each about the size of a grain of sand, supported inside a porous screen. The pellets consist of enriched uranium embedded in a graphite matrix and surrounded by a coating made of zirconium carbide. The pressure vessel can be made whatever size is needed to produce the necessary thrust.

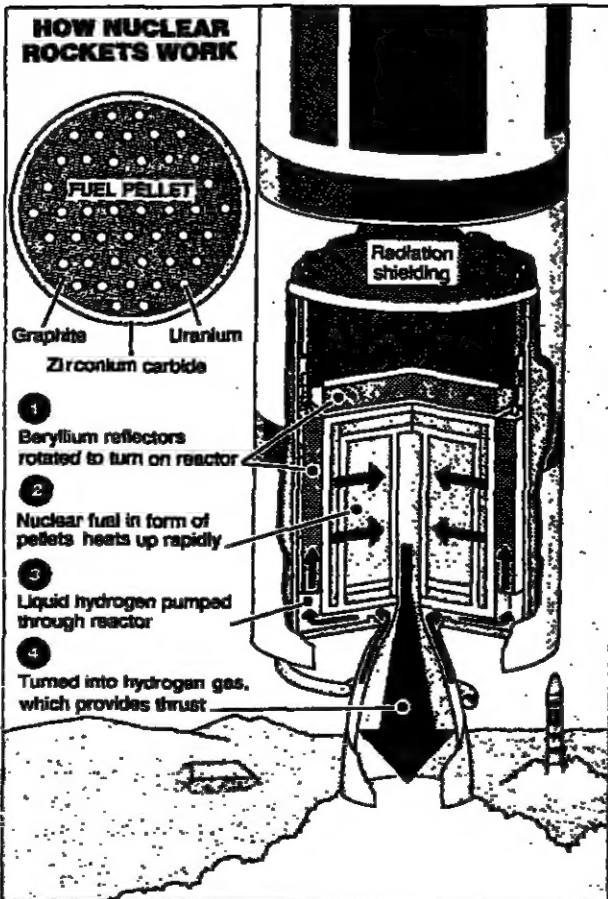
A nuclear rocket the same size as the Titan III, which can place 14-ton payloads into low earth orbit, is expected to produce three times as much thrust.

The reactor is turned on by rotating mirrors made of beryllium, a reflecting material which bounces escaping neutrons back into the fuel. The increased neutron flux starts the fission reaction and the fuel pellets heat up rapidly. Liquid hydrogen is pumped through the pebble bed, vaporised, and heated to a temperature as high as 2,000°C. The hydrogen, now a gas, expands and is blasted out through the rocket nozzle, producing thrust.

Nuclear rockets generate a lot of thrust but run for only a few minutes at a time, not long enough to create dangerous fission products. Inevitably some of the fuel grains are thrown out with the rocket blast but because of the low fuel burn-up they are not highly radioactive.

Losses can be reduced by using solid fuel rods, but the advantage of the grains is that they can heat up almost instantly without any damage to the reactor structure. Solid fuel rods heated at the same rate would expand so fast that they would crack. That makes pebble-bed reactors particularly suitable for SDI, where instant responses are needed: for Mars missions solid fuel is more likely.

The amount of thrust produced depends on the temperature, with 2,000°C the upper limit. At that temperature the hydrogen would react with the graphite in the pellets if the fuel were not protected by a coating of a ceramic such as zirconium carbide. The drawback of the



nuclear rocket, according to Alan Bond, a British expert on rocket propulsion, is that it produces such a huge flux of neutrons when operating that it would destroy its electronic control systems if they were not protected behind shielding.

The same applies in greater measure for manned missions. The weight of the shielding reduces the overall efficiency of the system.

Another difficulty arises in ensuring that after a crash landing the reactor does not produce a nuclear explosion. The idea of using a nuclear rocket as the third stage of a Saturn booster in the 1960s was abandoned because of the danger of explosion if it crashed into the sea.

Fear of dangerous products from EC

By A STAFF REPORTER

DANGEROUS products could flood into British shops from other parts of the European Community after the internal market comes into force in January 1993, trading standards officers say.

The officers' work would be reduced to a fire-fighting exercise to ensure that goods met EC safety regulations. Mike Drewry, director of trading standards for Lothian regional council, said yesterday. Dangerous goods on sale in British shops showed that agreed safety standards were not being enforced by other European countries. Safety standards now proposed for some goods, such as furniture, fell short of those which applied in Britain, he said.

"If tougher standards are not developed and if other countries do not do more to enforce the laws, it will be up to trading standards officers to check goods on the shelves and we cannot check everything."

Mr Drewry, chairman of the safety standards committee of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, said that discussions were contin-

uing on a general European Commission directive on product safety to apply throughout the EC by 1993.

Precise safety standards have been agreed by trading standards officers in member states on some types of goods. But almost as many remain undecided and implementation and enforcement is being left to member countries.

Certification of individual products with a CE (Community European) sticker to denote compliance with safety standards was being left in many countries to the manufacturers themselves. Safety standards have been implemented in most European countries on toys. Mr Drewry said, however, that goods on sale in the UK showed that enforcement was not working.

"The European Commission is considering a new directive to tighten certification of products. Safety standards are also being drawn up on other goods, but draft standards on furniture fall short of those in force in Britain, where foam filling on new furniture must be fire-resistant."

Draft European standards require fire-resistance only in furniture covering, and do not insist that resistance be permanent. Mr Drewry said: "We campaigned for years in the UK to get fire resistant foam in furniture and the industry has spent £20 million converting to it."

"Other countries are now saying that imposing this on their manufacturers would put them at a disadvantage after 1993."

Eighty thousand consumers die in EC member states each year as a result of accidents involving consumer products, according to the European Consumer Safety Association. Forty million are seriously injured — more than are injured in road accidents or at work.

Jail suicide 'blunders'

THE suicide of a prisoner at Brixton jail, southwest London, was surrounded by an incredible series of administrative blunders, a coroner said yesterday.

His comments came as an inquest jury returned a verdict that Edwin Robinson, aged 28, a mentally disturbed re-mandant inmate, had killed himself in circumstances brought about by lack of care. Sir Montague Levine, the South-west coroner, said prison staff received no medical records about Mr Robinson on his arrival at Brixton and failed to give him a medical assess-

ment. Terry Munyard, counsel for Mr Robinson's family, told the jury that gross errors had been committed by officials. A man with a history of mental illness had been put in a "distressing place where he had not been cared for properly" after his arrest for threatening a police officer at knife-point.

The case is likely to add fresh impetus to the government's plans to reduce the number of jail suicides by improving staff training, tightening suicide prevention strategies and making prison regimes more active.

A further period of uncertainty between the two sides, but the Hudsons say should have been the last well-attested case of the kind. The Hudsons say they have made a decision to leave the Hudsons and the Hudsons say they have made a decision to leave the Hudsons.

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social worker may appeal against Orkney case ruling

By KERRY GILL

Mr Sloan's office would comment officially. However, a social work source said "It is likely that the reporter will appeal." He said that he would be surprised if Mr Sloan did not. The source added that the police, the procurator fiscal and the Crown Office were still looking into alleged criminal aspects of the affair. "No one has said there is nothing in it and dumped it," he said. Mairi Trickett, the social work committee chairwoman, said she was surprised at the Sheriff's findings. An appeal was likely as she believed the procedures had been carried out properly. She refused to comment on whether any disciplinary measures might be taken. The Rev Derek Edwards, a local Baptist minister, said the social workers had behaved like "import dictators in a banana republic". The procurator fiscal and police are still investigating allegations made by three other children already in care against the Rev Morris McKenzie, aged 63, the Church of Scotland minister of St Margaret's Hope. On the day the children were seized his manse and church were searched and he was questioned for several hours by police. Mr McKenzie, aged 63,

Country boy learns city tricks at care school

AN ORKNEY Island boy taken into care by social workers spoke yesterday of how he was sent to a residential school where he learned to steal cars (Kerry Gill writes).

The boy, aged 15, who is now back on his family's remote farm, said that he was the only youngster during his five weeks at the school who was not there for having committed a crime. Although he praised the school staff and said that he had made friends with the other young people, he said that he could not understand why he was not placed with foster parents.

Having left Orkney as innocent as anyone of his age living on a remote farm, he has returned to his parents well-versed in the methods of petty crime. He had, however, no intention of using his new-found knowledge.

The boy, back in his farm overalls, said that he could not fault the way he had been treated by the school staff and the other boys. "They were really kind to me. The staff took me on trips to see castles and armour. I made some good friends, they were really nice. They had just had a bad upbringing," he said.

"They had all been car thieves, done jewellery shops and shop-lifted. I was the only person there who had never smoked. They were all from the Glasgow area. They told me how to steal a car and how to make a joint."

The boy recalled the morning that he and his brother, aged 11, were taken into care. "I had a few choice words for the social workers when they came. I would have lashed out but I realised I could have been arrested."

The boys were put on a chartered aircraft and were not allowed to speak to each other. When the aircraft reached Inverness the younger boy was handed over to a foster family. "He had the intelligence to understand that there was nothing we could do," the 15-year-old said.

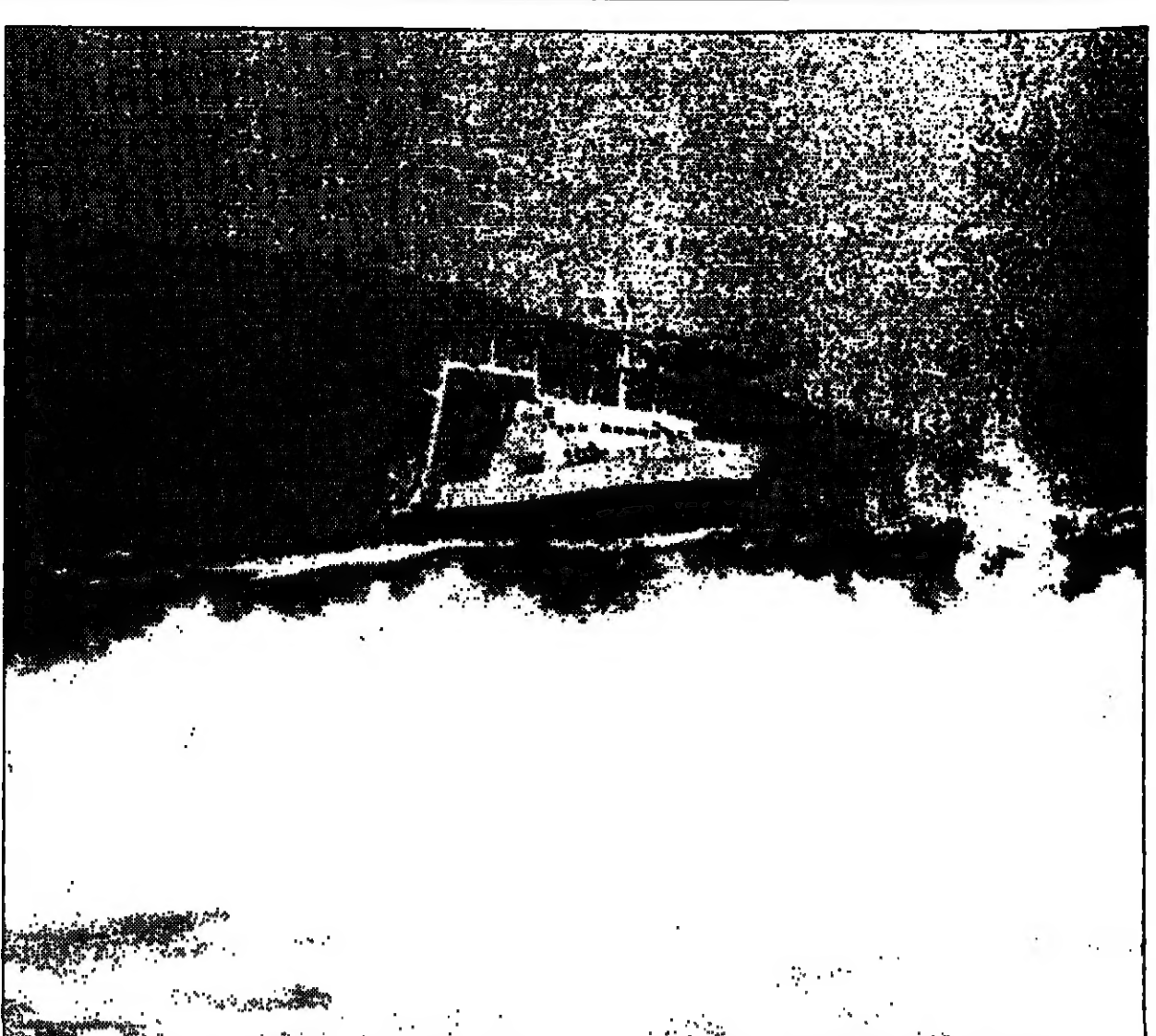
"The social workers on the plane were quite friendly. They knew I wished they were all dead but they were friendly nonetheless. One of the other boys was crying." He was then flown to Glasgow and taken to a hospital for a physical examination, and on to the school where he was given his own room.

"I just sat and watched television for a while," he said. "It was just like a dream, very hard to believe what was happening." Later he was regularly questioned about ritual dances and sex abuse. It was all rubbish, he said. His mother said that the younger boy's foster family had been marvellous and they would stay in touch.

One of the other families expressed anger after learning that their daughters aged 11 and 13 had been separated from their brother, aged eight. The mother said that her daughters, who were kept in Glasgow, saw their brother once when they were making regular trips to Strathaven, Ayrshire, for questioning. "He was across the street, but he didn't see them," she said.

"It was terribly distressing to the girls. They cried every night and have been asking why we didn't write." In fact she had written every second day but the letters and presents were never delivered to the children.

Shir survived, page 8



All at sea: the French factory ship Capitaine Plevin II stranded on a reef in Galway Bay yesterday buffeted by the Atlantic swell. The captain and crew were lifted to safety by the RAF and Irish Air Corps. Details, page 1

Clarke climbdown on exam spelling

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, education secretary, yesterday reluctantly accepted the compromise proposed by his advisers for penalising spelling mistakes in GCSE examinations.

He agreed that marks will be deducted this year only if errors make meaning unclear, but that stiffer penalties will be imposed in future. Mr Clarke had wanted up to 5 per cent of marks deducted for poor spelling.

In a letter to Philip Halsey, chairman of the school examinations and assessment council, he said: "I must confess to some slight disappointment that you do not consider it possible to do more in 1991 than to draw candidates' attention to the need for good spelling and to strengthen the guidance given to examiners. But I hope that the guidance will result in stiffer penalties being imposed this year than hitherto, and I am pleased that this exercise will cover grammar and presentation as well as spelling."

The council made a special case for this year's GCSE candidates because their syllabuses and teaching would not have reflected the government's harder line on spelling. Future policy will be developed in reports to Mr Clarke later in the year.

The education secretary hoped the reports would be more specific about the penalties for bad spelling and about the use of computer spell-checkers. He acknowledged the need for special arrangements to ensure that handicapped pupils competed with their peers on an equal footing. Michael Fallon, the schools minister, is consulting dyslexia groups.

The council is discussing long-term policy with the bodies responsible for A-levels and vocational qualifications. Mr Clarke hoped that would not spread the effort too thinly. "Nothing must be done to call into question the need for greater stringency that I consider essential if we are to see a real improvement in the way teachers deal with this important topic."

Dismissed vicar may win retrial

A VICAR who lost his living after being found guilty of adultery with two women parishioners was told yesterday that he might have won a retrial.

The presiding judge at the Rev Thomas Tyler's appeal in London said that the case could be referred back to the Church of England Consistory Court which convicted him in November.

The hearing was told that Canon David Gutsell, one of the assessors who sat as jurors at the trial, had discussed the case at length with Mr Tyler beforehand. John Beveridge QC, for Mr Tyler, said that this constituted such a strong "disqualification factor" that the verdict should be set aside.

Sir John Owen, the Dean of Arches and head of the five judges hearing the appeal,

said: "If you are right and the whole matter is flawed it might be that we ought to come to the conclusion that the whole thing ought to be sent back to the Consistory Court to be heard by new assessors." Mr Beveridge said that Canon Gutsell's decision to stay on as an assessor after discussing the case on two occasions with Mr Tyler was "very odd and in fact irresponsible". He criticised Canon Gutsell's claim that he had remained objective, pointing to evidence which, he said, showed he had formed a bias view against Mr Tyler.

Mr Beveridge said: "Nothing could be more dangerous than a person of almost goodwill, but without any legal training and no training in objectivity, convincing himself that it was possible for him to be objective in this situation."

Mr Tyler, former vicar of Henfield, West Sussex, was found guilty on five charges of conduct unbecoming the office and work of a clerk in holy orders. He denied the charges but was sentenced to "deprivation and disqualification". He was dismissed and barred from holding office in the Church of England.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday after the judges decided they had to hear evidence from the registrar who organised the original trial.

Tyler: found guilty of unbecoming conduct



together: a reunited family spending time alone yesterday. One boy said of time in care: "It was like a dream, very hard to believe what was happening."

Food manufacturers ignoring calls for cutback in use of salt

LOREN YOUNG

Food manufacturers yesterday showed little inclination to respond to health officials' suggestions that they cut the amount of salt used in processed foods.

At St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, the British Medical Association said that if manufacturers reduced the salt they

added to processed foods, deaths from stroke and heart disease in Britain would be cut by 39 and 30 per cent respectively.

The Food and Drink Federation responded that the findings were of interest and would be studied, but noted that manufacturers had already launched a variety of products with reduced salt content. "Experience has shown that the uptake of these has been limited," the federation said. "Should the demand increase, so will the choice and availability."

The manufacturers' claim provoked Sue Dibb, of the Food Commission, to say: "The real reason they use so much salt is that if they did not, much of the food would have no taste."

Graham MacGregor of St George's Hospital, south London, an earlier researcher on the links between salt consumption and high blood pressure, said: "The more salt you eat the more you need to produce a salty taste. The salt receptors in our mouths are

courted assiduously by the food industry from the cradle, with salty rusks, crisps and nibbles, salty sausages, cheeses, tomato ketchup and Marmite soldiers. Some people living in hot and humid climates manage perfectly well on 50 times less salt than Britons use."

The average British consumption of salt is more than nine grams a day. The government's recommended daily allowance is five grams, and the World Health Organisation recently recommended an absolute maximum of six grams. Intakes three times that are not uncommon in Britain.

The Food and Drink Federation admitted that processed foods are responsible for about half the national salt intake. The rest is naturally present in fresh foods or comes from salt added in cooking. Nutritionists say no one in Britain should need to add salt to food, since there is adequate naturally present in bread, cereals and other foods already.

Cashing in on the ducal 'empties'

By JOHN SHAW

A COLLECTION of "empties" from an aristocratic wine cellar retrieved from the river Dee will be auctioned for an estimated £5,000 next month to help to finance a trip around the world by a couple in Cheshire.

Fourteen 17th-century and 18th-century green and brown glass wine bottles were found in a stretch of the river which crosses the Duke of Westminster's land around Eaton Hall, his family seat in Cheshire. The main discovery was an onion-shaped bottle bearing the Grosvenor Talbot Hound seal dating from 1680. It is believed to be the only complete bottle of its kind and is expected to make up to £1,200 at Phillips in Chester on May 31.

The Grosvenors had their own brewery on the estate from the 17th century until the first world war. It is believed that in the early days, their own bottles were blown on the site and used to bring beer, wines, or spirits from the cellar to the table.

Many of the bottles recovered from the river seem to have been deliberately broken at the seal, but, according to the duke, the reason remains something of a mystery. He confirmed that the Talbot Hound seal was the only one still in existence.

The bottles were found by David

Parr, aged 46, a member of the local sub-aqua club, who recovered them with the aid of a compressor-powered hose to blow away the silt. They were brought up in a bucket of water and sprayed with artist's varnish to prevent the glass crazing on contact with the air.

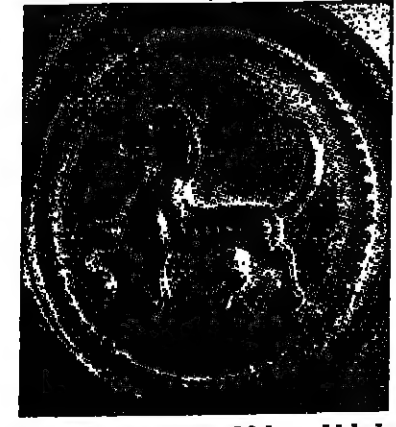
"We dived on many different occasions over a period of 18 months and for every whole bottle found, we must have come across two dozen broken," Mr Parr said. "Every foot of the river bed in that location was systematically searched, and apart from a few slivers

of glass, I don't think there can be anything left." He has now decided to sell up and travel the world with his wife Janet in their mobile home. "The collection is unlikely to survive the journey, and, sadly, it has to go," he said.

Robert Gowland, a director of Phillips North West, said: "It is extremely rare to find a good collection of early bottles, let alone one which is of such local significance. I can understand his reluctance to sell, but I am sure that the interest from collectors will pay for a few gallons of petrol for his trip."

The auction is one of three special sales to launch Phillips North West, the new name for the firm's salerooms in Chester and Manchester. The change was announced by Christopher Weston, the chairman, who sees opportunities in the region now that Sotheby's, its main rival, has ended local auctions.

Sotheby's had a turnover of £10-£12 million a year from a large catchment area in the Midlands and the north of England. Two of its key members, Gary Owen, aged 37, the general manager, and William Whitter, aged 35, who ran one of Sotheby's two auction rooms in the town, have now joined Phillips.



The unbroken seal which could help to fetch £1,200 for the bottle

Television Licence Fee Increase

Television licence fees were increased with effect from 1 April 1991. The new fees are £25.50 for black and white and £77.00 for colour. Licensees who use the Direct Debit or Credit Card payment schemes to pay for their licence should note the following:

ANNUAL PAYMENTS BY DIRECT DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD

Your next licence will be issued at the new rate. Consequently your account will be debited with the appropriate amount on or immediately after the first day of the month following that in which your current licence expires.

MONTHLY INSTALMENTS BY DIRECT DEBIT

1. If your current licence expires at the end of March 1992 then the monthly instalment will now be one tenth of the new fee, i.e. £2.55 per month for a black and white licence or £7.70 per month for a colour licence.
2. If you have been paying monthly instalments towards your next licence based on the old fee, then on the last day of the month prior to that in which your current licence expires (exceptionally for April 1991 expiry licences, the last day of this month), your account will be debited with an amount equal to the difference between the old and new fees, i.e. £1.50 for black and white or £6.00 for colour. Thereafter instalments will be based on the new fee as in '1' above.

QUARTERLY INSTALMENTS BY DIRECT DEBIT

PREMIUM SCHEME

When your current colour licence expires, your quarterly instalments towards your next licence will be based on the new fee, i.e. £20.50 (£19.25 plus £1.25 premium payment) per quarter.

STANDARD SCHEME

1. If your licence expires between July and the last day of September this year, your instalments (towards your next licence) have been based on the old fee. Consequently, your next instalment will be a catch-up payment of £20.75 - i.e. £17.75 plus £3.00 - to bring payments up to date. Thereafter instalments will be based on the new fee, i.e. £19.25 per quarter.
2. If your licence expires between January and March next year the next (final) instalment towards your current licence will be at the old rate, i.e. £17.75. Thereafter, instalments will be at the new rate, i.e. £19.25 per quarter.



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Collecting, page 16

Yeltsin's triumph follows trade-off with Communists

FROM MARY DEEVEY IN MOSCOW

Yeltsin yesterday won a personal triumph for himself as a political leader, a personal triumph that was achieved by hours of hard bargaining behind the scenes of the nine days of the Russian constitution.

Success in winning the 1 of most of the 400000 deputies, at one of the most implacable enemies just as remarkable achievement. Communist opposition with the outcome of a congress, which was at a press conference yesterday afternoon, is one of the reasons why the decision of the congress and its implications have been little of a triumph for Mr. Yeltsin. Although the president failed to get the constitution passed so that a president would be directly elected with authority, he has achieved immediate powers to those of an executive president and set the date for direct elections. If there was any doubt before, Mr. Yeltsin is now the undisputed leader of Russia and his stature in the republic has been enhanced at President Yeltsin's expense.

The same congress also granted him the right to "issue instructions" across the territory of the Russian Federation, also changed the structure of power in Russia. As a result of the full parliament - 2000-strong congress - did much of its legislative power to the regular parliament, or supreme so-

viet, including the right to change the constitution.

In theory, this gives the Russian parliament the right to approve legislation concerning the republic's presidency, which it might proceed to do. However, the parliament is very finely balanced between radicals and conservatives. The Communists are, if anything, better organised in the parliament than in congress, and in recent months they have been able to block or dilute any measures that Mr. Yeltsin tried to introduce.

Giving parliament more power is not, therefore, the same as giving Mr. Yeltsin and the radicals more power. Igor Bratishchev, the deputy chairman of the Communist bloc, said yesterday that the Communists had obtained a written deal on the restructuring and membership of parliamentary committees and commissions, where many of the real decisions are taken. This was presumably achieved in exchange for Communist support for presidential elections, although Mr. Bratishchev did not say so.

The Russian president might, therefore, find it even more difficult to push his policies through parliament. On the other hand, he might have greater certainty that any decision that passes through the committees will also get through parliament.

The Communists hinted yesterday that although they had yielded on the principle of a Russian president and on direct elections, they would continue to fight on two fronts. They want the powers of a president clearly defined and limited, and they would question the constitutionality of an executive presidency for



Food for thought: Albanian children taking a break from classes to enjoy a small bottle of fruit juice each at a kindergarten in Tirana, where there is a chronic shortage of fresh fruit. Their daily allowance is part of the much-needed food aid Italy has sent to Albania

Yeltsin turns tables, page 1

Kohl pledges turn sour for Erfurt

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

FRANKFURT. Kohl has fond memories of Erfurt. It was before a huge flagging crowd, that he began a campaign which turned into a personal triumph, leading to unification and his election in the first all-German election.

With his popularity plunging, unemployment rising in the east, the chancellor returns tomorrow to try to restore confidence in his leadership. He made there just over a year ago that nobody would be off as a result of unification. That promise, made to a crowd hungry for democracy and eager for a living standard,

helped to sweep the Christian Democrats to power.

The promise of Erfurt has now gone sour. Today one worker in three in eastern Germany has no full-time job, prices are rising faster than wages and polls show the chancellor would only scrape home if there were an election tomorrow.

Strongly criticised for failing to visit the east since his election victory, Herr Kohl has decided to cut short his planned Easter break and to make the first of a series of trips there with a return to Erfurt. This time, however, no vast rally is planned.

Instead, he wants to be seen carrying out an on-the-spot investigation into local problems. He will go to church, tour the town with the mayor, lunch in a Catholic hospital, confer with local councillors and state government members and then face the press.

The difficulty of luring new investors to the east, despite extensive government support, is forcing Herr Kohl to change tack in his strategy for rebuilding the economy there. Treuhand, the government agency charged with privatising the old combines, is now seeking an extra DM400 billion (£135 billion) up to the turn of the century to help restructure companies rather than shut them down.

The more brutal but swifter method of closure, used initially by Detlev Rohwedder, the Treuhand president who was murdered this week, is now seen as potentially dangerous because of the number of redundancies it creates. Treuhand now favours more consultation with local representatives to balance what is socially needed with what is economically viable.

In Erfurt tomorrow the chancellor will try to present this acceptable new face of unification. He will explain that in promising a year ago that nobody would be worse off, he was looking to the medium-term future, and that for a year or two every German must be prepared to make sacrifices in order to achieve this goal.

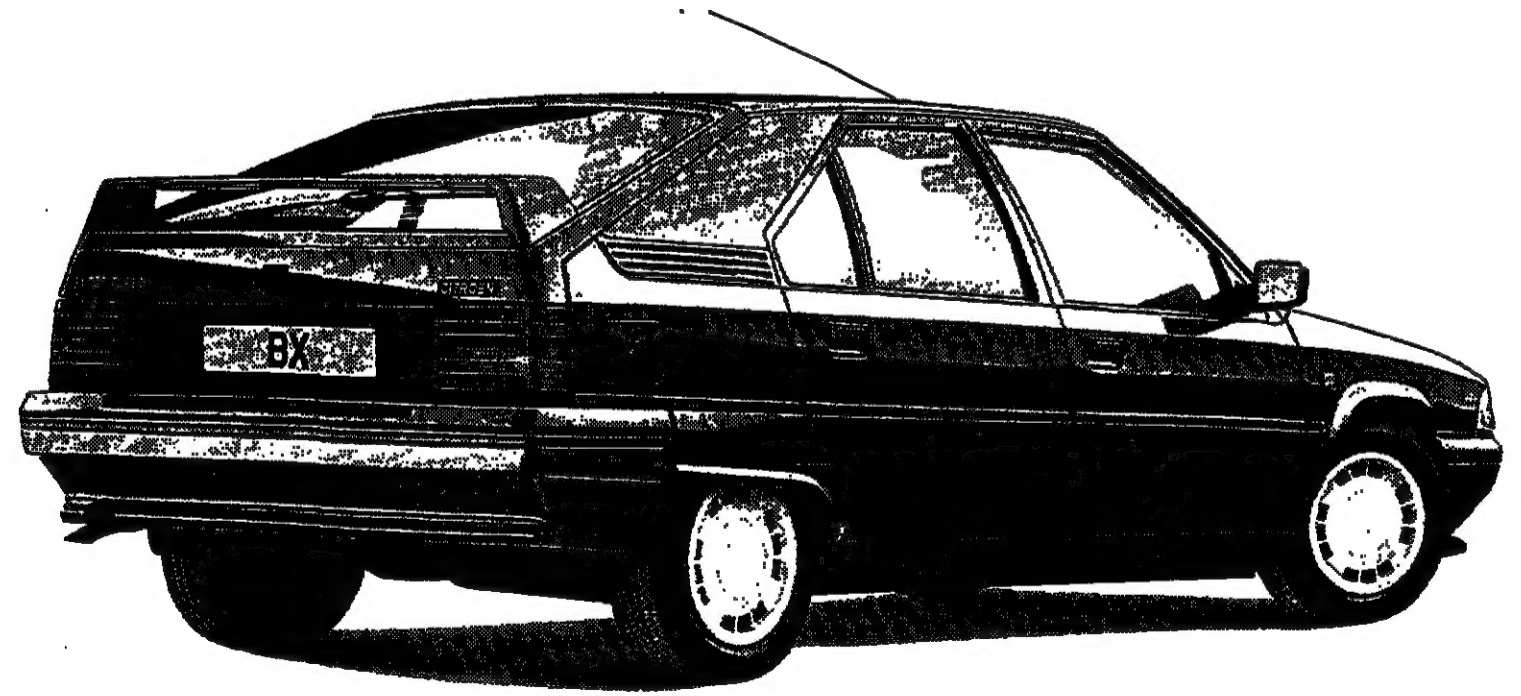
ANC gives Klerk ultimatum

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN National Congress threatened to break negotiations with the African government if it takes specific steps to litigate violence in black towns, and dismisses police officers responsible for the killing of Pretoria of a communist in the strife, which it is aimed at crippling the IC and improving the lot of the rival Inkatha party, the organisation presented a list of demands yesterday which it said it met by May 9. A spokesman for President de Klerk said he would not meet the ANC until he had received a letter.

ANC called for a ban on public assembly, the dismissal of the army and law order, the dismantling of insurgency units, and pension of police officers implicated in the killing of demonstrators, pending proceedings against

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Threat to peace allows world body to override charter

THE outrages committed by Iraq against its Kurdish minority finally may have shocked the United Nations into action. At least a verbal condemnation may be forthcoming from the security council, which might also urge the international community to render humanitarian assistance to those seeking sanctuary in neighbouring states.

The security council might also wish to provide humanitarian assistance to the threatened minorities within Iraq itself. But as the organisation has failed tragically to include in this week's ceasefire terms an obligation to exercise restraint and accept such an aid programme, its implementation might encounter Baghdad's opposition. In principle this should not create an insurmountable obstacle, for the United Nations does actually have the authority to threaten and, if need be, to apply military force to bring to an end the horrendous suffering within Iraq. Although the United Nations

Charter prohibits interference by the organisation in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of member states, this prohibition does not apply once the council has made a formal finding that the situation in question threatens international peace and security. And, on occasion, the suppression of a population by its own government has been interpreted to constitute such an international threat. So far this has occurred only in narrow and exceptional cases involving special issues, such as those relating to apartheid in South Africa and colonialism.

Over the centuries, international law has evolved into a powerful shield, guarding the freedom of action of state authorities within their respective territories. This reluctance of the international community to get involved in other, more general, circumstances of extensive and systematic violations of basic human rights is not

Self-interest has tempted most governments into a conspiracy of silence on human rights violations, Marc Weller writes. In the case of Iraq, however, the UN already has the authority to apply military force

altogether surprising. The interest in avoiding precedents which might undermine the untrammelled exercise of state authority, including their own, has tempted most governments into a conspiracy of silence. Atrocities committed by the organs of a state against its own citizens have therefore mostly gone unchallenged in international society.

The killing of Armenians was allowed to continue for years early in this century. When the second world war broke out, the allies did not go into battle to end nazi excesses against Jews and other persecuted minorities. Rather, war was waged to defend other states and governments

which had been subjected to aggression. Still, the scale of the outrages committed by the German regime against the civilians under its authority led to the adoption of the Genocide Convention of 1948. But in line with other human rights treaties, that convention did not establish a right of individual states to intervene militarily in order to stop atrocities while they are in progress. It only created a limited jurisdictional basis to try political leaders after the event, when it is, in fact, too late.

The Genocide Convention did, however, affirm the right of action of the United Nations. But for practical reasons the security council would have to rely on the

coalition to restrain forcibly the Iraqi government. President Bush, weary of involvement in internal conflicts, is unlikely to support such a move.

Other states actively oppose taking measures which might seem to affirm the applicability of the right of self-determination, and possibly secession, to minorities like the Kurds. The Soviet Union, China and the neutral and non-aligned states, represented by India in the council, have their own skeletons in the cupboard and are reluctant to admit the principle of humanitarian intervention in this context.

Failing UN action, individual states have taken the matter into their own hands sometimes. In-

dian troops entered East Pakistan in 1971 to bring about the secession of Bangladesh and initially justified the operation on humanitarian grounds. When Tanzania intervened in Uganda in 1979, it deposed the brutal government of Idi Amin. Neither action was condemned by the United Nations.

However, quite often the intervening states have pursued an agenda of their own when entering another jurisdiction and toppling a foreign government. Thus, Vietnam's defeat of the murderous Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge was not welcomed, but condemned at the United Nations. The intervention of the United States in a number of civil conflicts, ostensibly to further democracy, has been criticised severely, most recently for example in the cases of Grenada and Panama. Authorisation from the United Nations is necessary therefore to overcome the suspicion that a "humanitarian" intervention is, in fact, being

undertaken in the pursuit of national interests.

Recently there have been signs that the world organisation may be willing to break through the armour of state sovereignty in circumstances other than those involving pariah states such as South Africa. Last summer the little-known Economic Community of West African States interposed itself between the warring factions in Liberia and declared and enforced a ceasefire. This measure was communicated to the security council which tacitly approved by permitting the rendering of humanitarian aid in support of the operation. New members of the United Nations are faced with the challenge to expand on this practice through positive action. The law, at least, provides no excuse for the failure to do so.

The author is a research fellow at the University of Cambridge Research Centre for International Law and at St Catherine's College, Cambridge.

Rebel leadership spurns Saddam offer of amnesty

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ'S leadership, in an attempt to forestall action by the United Nations Security Council, yesterday offered an amnesty to Kurds who took part in the rebellion against President Saddam Hussein. Kurdish leaders promptly rejected the offer, saying they did not trust Saddam and that his helicopter gunships were still attacking convoys of civilians heading for the Iranian and Turkish borders.

A decree issued by Saddam's ruling Revolutionary Command Council gave the Kurds inside Iraq one week to take advantage of the offer, and those who had escaped two weeks to return. More than half of Iraq's four million Kurds are reported to have fled from their homes, most in such fear of Saddam's forces that they entered icy mountain wastelands ill-equipped. Hundreds are said to have died of hunger, exposure and

wounds inflicted by government forces.

The Iraqi News Agency said the decree covered all Kurds except those who "committed murder, rape and looting during acts of riot and treason".

Dizayee Mohsen, a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, the coalition of the main Kurdish groups, said: "We reject the offer because we do not trust Saddam Hussein. In his eyes we are all guilty of treason because every Kurd was involved in this uprising, from young children to old men."

Iraq's state-controlled media have persistently portrayed those involved in the popular uprising as godless criminals, looters and saboteurs. "Do you think any of us would get a fair trial before being executed?" Mr Mohsen asked.

In Damascus, a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of

Kurdistan said civilians who had witnessed the killings would not return to their homes while Saddam was in power and "would rather die of hunger and cold than be killed by his army".

The amnesty offer was aimed specifically at Kurdish deserters from the police and armed forces who joined the rebellion. Saddam hoped to boost his depleted forces by bringing back deserters, "but as soon as he feels strong again, these would be slaughtered", Mr Mohsen said. "Saddam never forgets." He estimated that 100,000 Kurdish army soldiers and up to 150,000 paramilitary troops had defected to rebel ranks.

Even as the amnesty offer was made, government helicopters were firing on civilians and convoys in the mountains and dropping napalm and phosphorus bombs, Mr Mohsen said.

The Kurds claim some successes in hit-and-run attacks against government forces in several towns. They insist that they are not finished as a fighting force and that they have virtual control of the countryside.

Kurdish peshmergas were living up to their name and facing death in suicide attacks, according to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan spokesman. "Our men have formed suicide guerrilla units and are attacking the enemy forces in Dahuk, Arbil and Kirkuk areas. There were casualties among them," he said.

Masoud Barzani, the Kurdish leader, urged Kurdish rebels on Thursday to die fighting, as it was a better fate than living in refugee camps in Iran or Turkey.

With the possibility that more than a million refugees might soon be camped inside Iran, Saddam must also fear that Tehran will arm them to fight another day.

Diary, page 8
Leading article
and letters, page 9



Diplomatic incident: Police marksmen stake out the Iraqi embassy in London after it was stormed yesterday by Kurds protesting at President Saddam Hussein's "genocidal" mass killing of their countrymen as

they flee from Iraq. One of the protesters is seen at the window of the embassy annex which they ransacked as they threw documents into the street. The three-and-a-half hour siege ended when the Kurds

were led from the building in Queen's Gate by armed police after surrendering on condition that they could shout their grievances against the Iraqi dictator to the press corps covering the demonstration.

Street battles flare in Kuwait capital

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN KUWAIT CITY

THE spectre of Beirut d little closer to Kuwait early yesterday after Palestinian gunmen opened fire on Kuwaiti soldiers in the streets and continued fighting for more than hours.

There were unconfirmed reports that two Kuwaiti soldiers had been killed. A Kuwaiti officer, who said that he just happened passing through one district, said he believed gunmen were from the "They were professional," he said. "They kept wounding the Kuwaitis."

Dozens of soldiers from Kuwaiti special forces retreated from a street in Salmiyah district where gunmen fired an RPG rocket-launcher. In a separate attack, gunmen fired at a station in the Pale Hawalli district.

The skirmishes, which started at about 9pm on day, were the most since Kuwait was liberated from Iraqi occupation in the summer of 1990. Gun battles marked a new chapter in the troubles of Kuwait and Palestine.

In Salmiyah, a mixed Arab-Palestinian district, fighting began when were fired at an army point in one of the main thoroughfares. Sp gunfire continued for more than an hour until K special forces arrived.

The Kuwaiti officers ensure how to count attacks. Every now and they ordered their troops up vehicle checkpoints: middle of streets, say them to gunfire. They were made harder as the men kept moving past after each burst of firing.

At one point I was with seven Kuwaiti soldiers behind a wall in Salmiyah where we thought we were safe from gunfire coming from an empty office block. Shots were fired at us behind, forcing us to towards the source of original gunfire.

By midnight the Kuwait army had brought dozens of Jeeps equipped with machineguns and fiveoured personnel carriers to the district. Soldiers sealed more than a dozen streets house-to-house searches carried out, but no guns found. I saw several Palestinians being beaten by soldiers who were shouting at them "go back to Jordan" "Iraqi collaborator".

Western diplomats journalists have been wary of the city for weeks. Palestinians might not serious retaliatory attacks the beatings carried out Kuwaiti and Saudi soldiers and by militias linked to emirate's ruling al-Sabah family. More than 2,000 Palestinians are estimated to be detention and human rights groups believe that up to hundred might have been killed.

Last week Sheikh Saad Sabah, the crown prince warned several junior members of the family that would be punished if it continued to encourage newly formed militias to attack and beat Palestinians. warnings seemed to calm situation. During the past days, however, Kuwaiti soldiers in Salmiyah, Hawalli and Firwaniyah have been taking Palestinians from their homes and beating them police stations and temporary army buildings.

Britain first to send aid to the refugees

BY ALICE THOMSON AND RICHARD FORD

BRITAIN yesterday was the first country to airlift emergency supplies of tents and blankets to Turkey as part of the £20 million aid given by the government to help the Kurds. Dr George Carey, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, welcomed the donation, but said more cash was required to ease their suffering.

He appealed to the British people to open their "hearts and purses" and to give generously to the plight of the Kurds fleeing Iraqi repression.

Yesterday a Boeing 707 made two round trips to Turkey, carrying £500,000 worth of emergency aid. The Turkish Red Crescent distributed the supplies among 7,000 Kurds stranded near the Turkish border.

The two flights were part of

the government's "immediate interim response" to the desperate situation. The government also gave £500,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The ICRC, the only international relief agency allowed to operate in Iraq, yesterday sent a team of relief workers based in Baghdad to the north to assess the problems facing the Kurds. The rest of the £20 million donation will be given to the UN appeal fund next week.

Dr Carey, speaking at Lambeth Palace in his first address as archbishop, said he hoped the British public would respond quickly because the human need was desperate.

The Labour party, too, urged ministers yesterday to do more to provide aid for the Kurdish refugees.

China balks at Kurd precedent

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council was heading towards a close vote yesterday on whether to save the Iraqi Kurds. Britain and the United States gave their solid support to a French draft resolution condemning Iraqi repression of the Kurds and insisting that Baghdad allow cross-border aid.

But China, which holds a veto on the security council, was said to be strongly opposed to what it saw as

interference in Iraq's domestic affairs in violation of the UN Charter. The Chinese fear setting a precedent for UN intervention elsewhere, particularly in support of Tibet or the Chinese pro-democracy campaigners.

Cuba, India and Yemen shared China's objections. Ecuador, Romania, Zimbabwe and the Soviet Union, another veto-bearing power, were regarded as the swing votes on the 15-nation council. To

pass, the French draft resolution needed to win nine votes and escape a Chinese or Soviet veto. Austria, Belgium, Ivory Coast and Zaire were expected to vote with the Western powers, making a total of only seven sure votes.

One Western diplomat deeply involved in the negotiations said: "This is not going to be a resolution that is going to attract the level of support of previous Iraq-Kuwait resolutions. This is one of

the genuinely unpredictable votes in the council."

A complaint by Turkey that Iraq's repression of the Kurds was driving hundreds of thousands of people towards the Turkish frontier, endangering international peace, provided the justification for UN intervention. Iran added its voice to the Turkish appeal yesterday with a letter to the UN secretary-general, saying: "The magnitude of the suffering of Iraqi refugees, its international character and its consequences for regional peace and security make a concerted international reaction by the security council a political and humanitarian imperative."

Iran said about 500,000 Iraqis would try to cross the Iranian border in the next few days and about 110,000 had already done so.

The French draft is littered with references to threats to international peace and security — terminology that permits security council action. The text condemns "the repression of the Iraqi civilian population in many parts of Iraq, including most recently in Kurdish populated areas", and demands an immediate end to the Iraqi attacks. The draft also insists that Iraq "engage in an open dialogue to ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens are respected".

Foreign Office reluctant to use 'genocide' label

BY MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN stopped short yesterday of echoing Germany in describing Iraq's actions against its Kurdish community as genocide. The Foreign Office said that while there was ample evidence of unacceptable violence being used, this was not the same as evidence of intent by Iraq to perpetrate genocide as defined by the United Nations.

Amnesty International and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees also declined to use the emotive term genocide, saying simply that hundreds of people had been summarily killed.

While there is evidence of an exodus of Kurds and circumstantial evidence that many have been killed and more have died because of the conditions encountered during their flight, there is little evidence of specific acts by the Iraqis that can be labelled genocide or of a specific policy that is clearly genocidal.

David McDowall, a British specialist in Kurdish affairs, conceded that President Saddam Hussein could easily claim that the Kurds had fled of their own volition. They may have done this because of the harsh repression they could expect, but that was not necessarily genocide. Hans-

Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, had no compunction at using the term, however, and neither had Jacques Poos, Luxembourg's foreign minister.

The UN convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime defines genocide as any of a series of acts commit-

measures intended to prevent births or forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. Iraq is among those nations which have ratified the convention.

Ironically, Iraq has in the past recognised Kurdish rights to a greater say in their affairs more than either Iran or Turkey, which also have sizeable Kurdish communities. It has also been involved in more serious confrontations with the Kurds.

Latif Rashid, London representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, cites as evidence of Iraq's genocidal policies the fact that more than 5,000 villages have been destroyed and that between three and four million Kurds are now fleeing for their lives. It was the doctrine of the ruling Baath policy in Iraq, he said, that Kurds were regarded as foreign agents and the Iraqi Baathist solution was to force Kurds to become Arabs.

Mr McDowall said the best pointer to whether Iraq was conducting a genocidal policy was the systematic destruction in 1988 of the mountain habitat of 1.5 million Kurds. "As Kurdish culture is essentially a mountain one, this act fell clearly into the category of genocide," he said.



Poos: accuses Iraq of crimes against Kurds

Nato condemns Iraqi abuses

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

NATO yesterday issued the strongest condemnation of Iraq's treatment of the Kurds to come from an international body, speaking of "massive violations of human rights".

But a spokesman, after a meeting of ambassadors here, did not refer to any specific means by which Iraqi action might be prevented. The 16 members of Nato, he said, "strongly condemn the brutal repression... hold the Iraqi government responsible. They stress that every pressure must be brought to bear by the international community... to stop the repression without delay."

Nato is particularly concerned about the repercussions of the crisis on Turkey, its only member directly affected as the number of refugees estimated to be on the Turkish side of the border yesterday passed 250,000.

"People are worried about Iraqi exploding into little fragments," Francisco Ordoñez, the Spanish foreign minister, said. "Because of

that, we must wait and observe." The French conservative daily, *Le Figaro*, summed up journalistic criticism with the crisp formulation: "Humbly. Everybody condemns it. Nobody does a thing."

While governments also stopped short of advocating military intervention, leading European statesmen were calling into question international law which bars outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

"I do not believe this is an internal affair of Iraq in which we may not get involved," Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, said. "This is genocide and an act by Iraq's dictator, Saddam Hussein, which threatens peace." Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, said that France would lead a debate on whether a "duty of intervention" could be written into international law.

Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, said that the tragedy had clearly shown that the UN's powers were inadequate.

de charter Hurd backs down over reat to halt rport plan

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN BEKING

Mr Hurd, the foreign secretary, indicated that the world was not ready to break the deadlock over the future of Hong Kong. He told journalists that Britain was "not unreasonable" in its demand for a "hard-headed" approach to the issue, and said that although reasonable progress had been made, he was "not home and dry".

With the handshake between Mr Hurd and Mr Li, Sino-British relations were effectively returned to normal after nearly two years of frosty relations and sanctions after the Tiananmen killings. Western sources said that Mr Li was co-operative and agreed that it was necessary that Hong Kong should have a new airport.

Chinese television news quoted Mr Hurd as saying that in the past dark shadows had appeared in Sino-British relations but that these shadows had gone. The television also quoted Mr Li as saying that the past was past and that both countries should now look to the future.

Mr Hurd threatened on Wednesday that, if the Chinese did not drop their objections over the airport, the project would be shelved. He appeared to be hoping to panic Peking into approving the scheme, since it also believes that Hong Kong is in need of a new airport.

It now appears, however, that Mr Hurd's comments were little more than bluster, and that in the face of Chinese intransigence Britain is prepared to give way rather than to scrap the airport.

The airport project was first planned as a gesture of confidence in the future prosperity of Hong Kong and its continued role as a financial and business centre. To shelve the project would have been tantamount to abandoning all hope of maintaining confidence in the future of the colony.

ORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

abloids cash in on Kennedys

ix the name "Kennedy" with rape, heirus and p and you have the snts for an all-out enzy. So far, howost Americans, de of a local tabloid, en spared the more rsons of the latest to engulf Ameral family.

or Edward Ken-is son Patrick and William Kennedy nvited two women et in a nightclub o the family estate Beach at 3am last y. After lunch on y, one of the reported to police had been raped. ollice have so far no charges or ible article.. he writes od cheque

ed that a rape took ut on Thursday med the alleged as William Ken-ith, aged 30. The n have denied any The heat has n the alleged vid 29. Reporters d siege to her d huge sums of ave been offered. some American , the sight of the :chequebook op- of Fleet Street en too much. one neighbour w long reporters ling to wait, a British scribe Until she comes talks," the New r reported with esterday. er, the news- veyed its front h the senator's nd the headline: Sexy Romp -



Innocent victims: a hostage shot by a gang who took over an electronics shop in Sacramento, California, edging to safety after being released as others stood in line inside. Three gunmen and three hostages were killed when police stormed the shop in a shopping mall after an eight-hour siege, the sheriff's department said. At least 13 hostages were wounded and a fourth gunman was seriously wounded in the siege by dozens of officers. The gunmen, members of an Asian youth gang called the Oriental Boys, originally took more than 30 customers and sales assistants hostage. They demanded safe passage to Thailand, guns, bullet-proof vests and a helicopter, Glen Craig, the Sacramento county sheriff, said. Three gunmen were killed by police, who threw stun grenades and shot out the store's main window when they stormed in. The gunmen wounded two hostages before officers stormed the shop, and shot at more after the assault began, Sheriff Craig said. Earlier, police using a Vietnamese interpreter had negotiated by telephone with the raiders, who released four adults and five children. (Reuter, AP)

Australia heads for republic status

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S transformation to an independent republic is now "inevitable", Bob Hawke, the prime minister, announced yesterday.

At a national conference in Sydney on constitutional reform, attended by Mr Hawke and Australia's five state premiers, it was proposed that the change to a republic, led by a president, would be most appropriate in 2001, the centenary year of the Australian Federation. The final decision on timing will be decided by a new constitutional study group headed, perhaps ironically, by Sir Ninian Stephen, the Queen's former governor-general to Australia.

"It is inevitable Australia will become a republic," Mr Hawke said. "It still would be something which for a lot of people would be hurtful. But for an increasing number of the Australian population I think there is probably a feeling that Australia should, in all its constitutional and legal apparatus, be seen to be - and in fact be - totally independent."

This is the clearest sign yet that Australia is ready to break its constitutional, legal and royal ties to Britain.

Former Haitian leader jailed

Port-au-Prince - The former president of Haiti, Ertha Pascal-Trouillot, who led the country to its first democratic elections, was jailed on Thursday for conspiring to overthrow her own government.

Her arrest stemmed from a foiled coup in January by supporters of the ousted Duvalier family. The coup leaders were trying to prevent Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had been elected president, from assuming office. (AP)

Rabies death

Sydney - A 10-year-old Vietnamese girl has died of rabies in the third case of the disease recorded in Australia, which is rabies-free. Health officials said the girl was believed to have been infected in Vietnam. Family, schoolfriends and hospital staff were under medical observation. (Reuter)

Rape by woman

Johannesburg - A 37-year-old woman was found guilty of statutory rape after admitting having had a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old boy. She had pleaded not guilty on the grounds that she did not know it was wrong to have sex with someone under 16. The magistrate postponed the case for sentencing. (AFP)

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A novel type of Catholic

Clifford Longley

Since Graham Greene's death on Wednesday, whether or in what sense he was Roman Catholic has been almost as much discussed as whether or in what sense he was a great writer. While he was alive he sensed the puzzle, and at odd moments added to it. Like a criminal disguising his deed, he chose to conceal his religious identity not with too few clues but with too many.

Greenland, the metaphysical landscape of his novels, was full of bad Catholics in various degrees of sin and doubt, mostly repulsive, some of them likeable in spite of it. Few of them debated whether they were really Catholics, though they did wonder how to make the best of being bad ones. Like God, Greene loved the sinners he had created. That they feared to love God because they were sinners was part of the reason they were in Greenland, part of the old Catholic neurosis of being a failure and knowing it.

Greene's mischievous genie decreed he must never appear on television or film, with the exception of an arm and a leg here and there: in much the same way bits of himself fitted in and out of his novels. This may be his clue to interpreting his many utterances about his own religion: he never showed all of himself, only the spiritual equivalent of an arm or a leg. He was an "agnostic Catholic" who thought doubt more important than faith, who carried a photograph of the miracle-working Padre Pio everywhere he went, and said Hail Marys every night and on planes.

Those who would dechurch this self-declared doubter and sinner, who say he was scarcely a Catholic at all,

come impossibly difficult, reserved for schismatic archbishops. Lapsing is not much easier, now that the church refuses to regard non-attendance at mass as a mortal sin (indeed, does not even recognise the language). In some Catholic parishes, one third of the babies brought for baptism are of Catholic parents who are living together without marriage. Are the parents "lapsed"? Are the babies?

The old Catholic preoccupations of guilt and fear of sin seem to be slipping into the past, and with them, so is Greenland. David Lodge's novel *How Far Can You Go?* was Greenland's funeral oration: "As far as you like" is the post-modern answer. This is one of the ironic results of the relaxation of church control over the faithful which resulted from the anti-contraception encyclical *Humanae Vitae* of 1968. Attendance at confession has dropped, marital scrupulosity about sin has declined. Is a Catholic who uses contraception "lapsed"? One who is divorced? A priest who marries? Nobody answers such questions any more. If all are sinners, all may be saved.

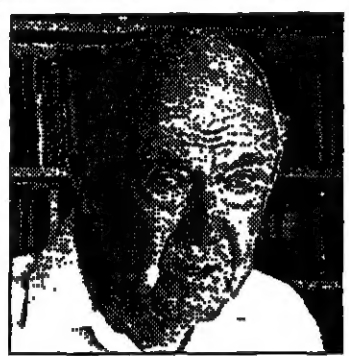
So Greenland is becoming obsolete, just as Greene's own style of Catholicism becomes universal. Post-modern Catholics belong to the church as Englishmen belong to England. They may sit abroad muttering denunciations into their whiskeys, but they are part of the "we" and know that whether curse or blessing, it is not something they can change.

Greene said nobody should be a Catholic unless he has to. It is not the mysterious remark it sounds, when it is compared with nobody should be a Jew unless he has to. Jews know that feeling well. They did not volunteer to be Jews. They may hate the very idea: it makes no difference.

What Catholics and Jews have in common in this respect, they also have in common with Muslims. All three have a sense of belonging to a "people", like being members of a nation or race (and those are not chosen either). Jews have race to fall back on, which makes being a lapsed Jew even more impossible. Islam maintains that no Muslim can lapse — as Salman Rushdie found to his cost. Catholicism has only recently invented the idea of leaving the church: canon law now makes it possible to renounce it formally, at which point all mutual claims cease. Yet such a person has not lapsed, but resigned to become something else.

British religion, on the other hand, has made normative either the "church invisible" of John Calvin or the established church of Elizabeth I, and finds Catholicism (and Islam and Judaism) hard to fit into either category. Lapsing from an invisible church is no big deal. An agnostic Calvinist is merely a Calvinist agnostic, a disbeliever with hang-ups, his noun and adjective interchangeable. An agnostic Catholic is a Catholic still; and a Catholic agnostic an entirely different being — or maybe impossible.

But Greene's theology of the mystery of grace is much better than either of these critical approaches: closer than either to the Gospel. Far from not being a Catholic or hardly one, he was the post-modern Catholic par excellence. The old distinctions between "good Catholic" and "bad Catholic", "practising Catholic" and "lapsed Catholic", do not work any more, though some Catholics seem to be stuck with them. Excommunication has be-



Greenland: slipping into the past along with guilt and fear of sin

David Lipsey marks Grand National day with a call for a punter-bookmaker alliance

Back Honest Joe, not the owners

Today is the 30th anniversary of the most tragic event of my childhood. In the 1961 Grand National, Nicolas Silver, the grey, picked on landing at Becher's second time round, was picked off the floor by his jockey and proceeded to win handily. I had backed Merryman II (8-1), O'Malley Point (100-6) and Scott's Flight II (100-6), second, third and fourth respectively, to be first, second and third. Only Nicolas Silver saved McCoughlin's of Edinburgh, with whom I had an illegal postal account, from paying out a princely £265 18s 0d.

Before 3.20 this afternoon, the nation will have staked perhaps £60 million — roughly £1 for every man, woman and child — on the result of this year's race, and most (like me then) will lose. In theory, *bookmakers* always win. *The Sporting Life*, racing's daily cyclopaedia, has recently added to its service a calculation of the profit the bookmaker might expect on the average race. Frequently, as on the first day of the Grand National meeting, this

profit can be very substantial indeed.

The living looks easy, and it is true that a higher proportion of bookmakers than punters drive Rolls Royces, smoke Havanas and winter in Barbados. To relieve them of their profits, the House of Commons select committee on home affairs is likely to recommend that the bookies pay more into horse racing.

Racecourse bookies operate in the nearest equivalent to that Shangri La of economists, the perfect market. What this means in practice is (from the bookie's point of view) less than perfect. For some time before the race, punters circulate comparing the prices chalked on the various boards. Only at the last minute do the big backers spring forward. Some poor bookmaker, who has made the mistake of offering (say) 13-8 about a horse that should really be 6-4, will suddenly find himself deluged with bets.

He can, of course, rub out his offer, or send a runner to a neighbouring bookmaker and back the

same horse to cancel out some of his liability; or (if he does not mind being thought a wimp) simply refuse the bet. All this has to be decided in an instant, with perfect appreciation of a rather complex mathematical calculation.

Successful bookmaking requires a lightning-fast intelligence, extraordinary powers of decision, and a not inconsiderable courage. When you lose, you must pay up as if you did not care, or risk having your solvency questioned.

Running a betting shop off-course is easier. The proprietor enjoys a near monopoly, thanks to licensing restrictions which prevent the opening of two shops near one another. The action is slower.

Many punters bet at starting prices, where the odds against each horse more closely reflect its true chance. Recent research at Southampton University shows that punters betting at starting prices end up losing more than half their money, while the better-informed who take set prices chalked up on boards make a profit. Nevertheless, every year, betting shop

owners go under, or are taken over by the big chains. No tears need be shed for them. They chose their business. Under capitalism, the two spurs are hope of riches and fear of penury. Bookmakers experience both to an extreme degree. They must take the rough with the smooth.

But their virtues should not be underestimated either. They provide a service that punters transparently want. They tend to be efficient. They pay their taxes (well, mostly they pay their taxes) at 8 per cent to the Exchequer. They are as valid a part of a service economy as stockbrokers, who provide a more upmarket service of a very similar kind.

Yet punters have long talked of bookmakers as the old enemy. Perhaps in 1991, both sides should think again, and unite against a common enemy, the rich and rapacious ranks of the racehorse owners.

The racing industry has turned itself into a powerful lobby for more subsidy. The home secretary is battered by requests that the 0.9

per cent of betting no present paid in levy to horse be increased. What should, I think, be the blood-bolting verdict of the select committee that bookmakers shied to pay more into this, of course, means no prize-money for the owner whereas there are rich bookies, only the well-off own racehorses.

Few horses bought for £5,000 are likely to shine, probably £8,000 a year to beasts in training. Of owners would be delighted more by way of prize-money would then have to contribute to the enjoyment of their from their own pockets. If gains would be shortly main effect of higher prize would be to increase the horses (just as the main mortgage interest relief has force up the price of house.

Let owners pay for the sales. And let punters as makers unite against the demands to take more to

Surviving a satanic slur



South Ronaldsay yesterday: calm after the storm as children and parents were reunited

Kerry Gill reports from the Orkneys on the web of myth and feud that led to the child-abuse affair

has found enthusiastic adherents. The parents at the centre of the child-abuse enquiry believe that one of the social workers is a member.

Once the phenomenon of ritual sexual abuse became a talking point in Britain, it is not surprising that it found special resonance in Orkney. Mystery and the world of witches, not necessarily malign, are the stuff of the Orkneyan heritage.

The islands' social work department believed that nine English children had been subjected to lewd behaviour involving ritual abuse by some of their parents. It was alleged that they had been sexually abused in rituals carried out in a small, partly water-filled quarry on South Ronaldsay. They still believe this despite the sheriff's withering criticism of their handling of the case.

There has been a gradual build up to the present case. Rumours of satanic practices, though not involving sexual abuse, first emerged almost a year ago. They took hold when teenage girls returned from Orkney Christian Fellowship summer camps with stories that one of the group's ministers had spoken "in tongues" and had attempted to exorcise devils.

Then, last November, a conference on ritual abuse was held in Aberdeen. At least one social worker from Orkney attended and became convinced that it had occurred there. At about the same time a man on the island was convicted and jailed for the sexual abuse of some of his children. Eight of his children who remained at home with their mother were taken from their school into care. The four families at the

centre of the latest allegations immediately offered their support to the mother, who, they felt, had been left to the mercy of uncaring and credulous authorities.

The mother then sought sanctuary with her ninth child at the home of Rev Morris McKenzie, the Church of Scotland minister of St Margaret's Hope. This perhaps heightened the idea of a connection between ritual abuse and the South Ronaldsay community. On the day the nine English children were taken from their homes, four police searched Mr McKenzie's manse, his church, car and garden for five hours and took away clerical vestments and other items. His alleged role is still being investigated by police.

But the social workers stand accused by the parents of running a vendetta against them simply because they successfully articulated and publicised their concern

for that mother and her who are still in care.

Perhaps surprisingly, the antipathy towards usually associated with homogenous communities has been accepted by the local people turned out to a meeting in St. Hope, the largest village on Ronaldsay.

The *Orkneyer*, the local paper which usually d columns to fishing haul and cows straying on roads that criss-cross, has been crammed pressions of support. Maybe this is the unit whole community. En Orkneyan, against what bureaucratic interference.

Yesterday the weather was blissful, the happiness was clouded by continuing police, law and fear that an appeal against the sheriff's findings may bring them more in the moment the island is in a small community it does will take a long time.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

I call it audio actuality. It is a radio phenomenon. Video actuality, in television reporting, is where we leave the studio and show the viewers a picture of what the presenter is talking about. A news item about the closure of a dockyard, for instance, takes us from the man in a suit reading a report ("The closure of these docks would bring massive job losses") to a reporter in an open-neck shirt, standing on what appears to be a dock, saying: "It's docks like these that provide employment for hundreds of men."

It is the grown-up version of the illustrated children's storybook. Viewers (or children) get bored watching a narrator talking. They need a change of scene to maintain interest, help them visualise what has just been described, and take seriously what the narrator is saying. The man in the suit in the TV studio is the adult equivalent of your mother reading: "And then Goldilocks knocked at the door of the little house, but nobody answered. Look, [Mum points] there's Goldilocks, knocking at the door."

Of course a video picture of the thing to which the newsreader is referring does not make the report any more true. If you believe television is capable of making up the report, then you must believe it capable of simulating the scene, too. I once presented a programme about the "underclass" in Merseyside. We recorded the necessary footage of me talking about inner-city dereliction from a second world war bomb site near Ken-

ing until the London Transport buses had moved out of frame. Sometimes, pictures are not so much deceptive as redundant. The urge to give viewers something new to look at every few seconds becomes an unreasonable reflex. How often have you heard a presenter say "Ever since Mrs Thatcher came to power in 1979" — accompanied by that same clip of a car drawing up in Downing Street? "It's cranes like these," I would say (the script instructing *library pic of crane*), "that will fill idle when the docks close." The library is sure to have a picture of a crane.

Nevertheless, the case for TV "actuality" remains valid: a picture may convey something that words cannot. Pictures often can. How much less often is understanding assisted by audio "actuality".

Audio actuality means those little clips, inserted into news reports, in which a reporter "on the spot" tells us what could equally well be told us by the newsreader (and often just has been), but in a more urgent "eyewitness" voice. Usually there is nothing to witness. A report about Lambeth council will be "illustrated" by an account from a reporter who is (we are told) "at Lambeth town hall. It is delivered in a flat, tragic-sounding, un-paced monotone, accentuating prepositions and lacking the light and shade used by people talking naturally. (You would get a hell of a shock if somebody actually started talking like that at a dinner party.)

Even the BBC World Service does it. Last week, reporting a

statement by a Russian, it used a recording of the chap talking (in Russian) as a sort of background wallpaper noise, overlaid by an English translator's voice. You couldn't properly hear the Russian, of course. It was soon faded out. What was this for? Listeners who didn't believe the fellow said it?

A popular refinement takes audio actuality one stage further. The newsreader yields to an on-the-spot reporter, who in turn defers to an "interview" clip with a "real" member of the public, who says the same thing as the first two. The aim is to lend the report veracity. All it lends is inanity.

This example is from a London radio station on Thursday. The ambassador's remark I took down verbatim. The rest is paraphrased, and "Fiona Urgent-Voice" is not her real name.

Newsreader: "Meanwhile, United Nations concern over the plight of the Kurds is mounting. From New York, Fiona Urgent-Voice reports... Fiona Urgent-Voice: 'There is growing concern among UN representatives here in New York over the situation of the Kurdish people. British ambassador to the UN Sir David Hannay says delegates are increasingly worried...' Sir David Hannay: 'Of course we're all concerned about the plight of the Kurds and the things that are happening inside Iraq, and the French delegate raised that, but I think you have to look at these things a bit separately.' And now back to London."

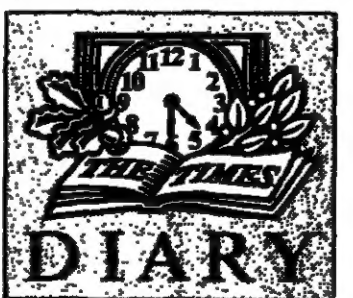
Power politics by proxy

The long-standing rivalry between Mrs Thatcher and Edward Heath will resurface today when their private secretaries do battle for the safe Tory seat of Croydon North-east at the next general election.

Also in the running for the seat, now held by the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, who is retiring, are his eldest son, also Bernard, and Lady Olga Maitland, who until this week was a newspaper columnist.

But all attention at today's constituency association interviews is focused on the duel between 26-year-old Robert Vaudry, Heath's right-hand man for the last three years, and 31-year-old John Whittingdale, Mrs Thatcher's political secretary at Downing Street. When Weatherill resigned, he asked Whittingdale to continue as head of her private office. Vaudry, for his part, was often seen on television in Baghdad, during Heath's trip. Both former PMs have enthusiastically endorsed their protégés, and are taking a keen interest in the outcome, which will be known next week.

Whether the standoff between Heath and Mrs Thatcher will enable the 39-year-old Weatherill junior to come through the middle remains to be seen. The family name counts for much in a constituency which his father has represented for 27 years, but there are of course charges of nepotism. The Speaker, adopting the neutral stance he takes in Commons debates, has stayed out of the fray, but if local Tories do opt for his son, they will face a further problem. Weatherill is almost certain to follow his predecessor as Speaker, Lord Trenchard, to the House of Lords as a hereditary peer. As his heir, Weatherill junior would one day face Tony Benn's old problem whether to renounce his peerage or force the party into an unwelcome by-election.



One of the first to propose autonomy for the Kurds was Winston Churchill. He made the proposal at a conference on the Middle East in Cairo in March 1921, shortly after becoming colonial secretary. According to his official biographer, Martin Gilbert, whose new single-volume study is published on Monday: "He feared an Iraqi ruler who would ignore Kurdish sentiment and oppress the Kurdish minority." Alas, says Gilbert, Churchill's advisers, including Lawrence of Arabia, dismissed these fears, believing that Britain would always have a moderating influence in Baghdad.

Breached

Another cherished tradition of the British legal system will be dispatched to the gallows next week when Helena Kennedy, the left-wing barrister, becomes a silk. Dismissing the usual skirt for her inauguration, she will become the first woman to wear the ceremonial knickerbockers traditionally reserved for men.

The diminutive Kennedy, who stands 5ft 2in without her wig, says: "I have no idea what my fellow silks will think, but there was great hilarity when I tried on the knickerbockers. I think they look wonderful. However they were made for men, but have been either a very small silk or a page boy. They are a perfect fit." But daring as her donning of the knickerbockers may be, Kennedy has her own sense of tradition. She will also wear the 60-year-old silk

gown that once belonged to the socialist lawyer D.N. Pritt, who fought many famous trade union and anti-colonial cases. Pritt bequeathed it to Stephen Sedley, another left-wing QC, and ever since silks of radical disposition have worn it for their inaugurations. "Unfortunately," says Kennedy, "I still have to buy my own silk gown for everyday use. Pritt's has become very fragile."

A new gown costs £870, which may begin to explain the astronomical cost of consulting learned friends.

Goats story

Desmond Hobbs, mayor of Lynton in north Devon, is breathing easier now that the deportation of six of his most troublesome residents has been arranged. One of the more onerous duties of mayor is to watch over a 30-strong herd of Cheviot goats, local legend having it that if the herd ever leaves the vicinity, disaster will befall the town. But the goats breed so fast that Hobbs — an undertaker when he removes his mayoral chain — periodically

has to arrange a cull, a practice that invariably causes public uproar.

Thirty miles off the coast, the administrator of Lundy Island, John Paddy, has the opposite problem. Goats were introduced to

the island half a century ago by the owner at the time as prey which he planned to rear. The tigers never arrived, without them, Lundy's gannet is in danger of dying.

So the proposed transit of Lynton's unwanted Ch. Hobbs hopes the six will be large and very pungent, that recently found its way to town hall. "They stink heaven," he says.

Scientists are less like members of other professions sprinkle their speech with meaningless monosyllables have come to mar the best spoken word — and the official. Research by psychologists at Columbia University York shows their scientific language tends to be no precise (only 1.39 of irritating little non-words), while those who in the, ah, humanities, did 4.85. Aaaargh...

Off with his dish

John Simpson, the BBC editor, will fly to Iraq today with a load off his mind. Sir Mayhew, the Attorney General, has assured him that he will be tried for treason. Mayhew was deluged with letters of support from the early days of the war, urging him to dust-treason laws and prosecute week Mayhew officially in Simpson was in the laws of treason are still in force they do not seem to apply case," he wrote.

Simpson, who has been in Iraq for a long time, is greatly relieved. "I can't not fancy being locked up in Tower of London." He frames the Attorney General's letter and hangs it about mantelpiece. "I'm a great really, you know."

Fantasies are made of this

Home from home:
Mary Stewart-Wilson

Mary Stewart-Wilson is not a witch but she says she lives in a gingerbread house. She is a woman who likes her make-believe to become reality. While many of her leisure hours are spent popping up in amateur pantomimes, most of her recent professional time has been occupied unearthing the secrets of the last living fairy tale, royalty.

Mrs Stewart-Wilson is the author of the unexpectedly successful *Queen Mary's Doll's House* (Bodley Head, £16). Her agent, publishers and the public were entranced by her infectious delight in the intricacies of time honoured, time consuming craftsmanship. Whether it is the 4in-height of the fully furnished rooms of the doll's house, the colour of the stockings worn by footmen on a full state occasion (pink), how many coats of paint on a carriage (28), or how many years an Ascot jacket must last (80), Mrs Stewart-Wilson devours every detail and lovingly presents them in glossy, hardback format. Her latest treasure trove is about the royal mews, her findings on which are due to be published next month.

She says: "I adore the arts. The day I realised that my children were three grown-up ladies I thought, come on Mary Stewart-Wilson, get off your bottom and do something."

When that something turned out to be writing a book, however, her family was scathing. "My mother said, 'Darling, I think we'd better look at your school reports'; my children roared with laughter and said, 'Mummy, you must be dotty, you can't even have a good idea'."

But Mrs Stewart-Wilson is a determined woman. Initially manoeuvred into position by her husband Blair, the deputy master of the royal household, this supposed no-hoper negotiated the red tape that encases the royal family and, with the photographer David Cripps, produced the book.

Whether it is writing a book or buying a gingerbread house and living happily ever after, Mrs Stewart-Wilson's enthusiasm carries her through. She is, quite simply, an all or nothing person. "So when it comes to houses, I want to be at the hub or hundreds of miles away," she says.



How the west was won: Mary Stewart-Wilson outside her gingerbread dream house in the country, The Old Brewery, near Taunton, Somerset

For her, a house has to be central London (29 years in Little Venice) or it has to be 100 per cent country (Somerset). Not for her Surrey and the stockbroker belt. Instead, the Stewart-Wilsons journey westwards as often and as quickly as possible. "Blair says I'm very dishonest about how long it takes. But at night, it's two-and-a-half hours."

When it comes to wish-fulfilment, romantics never give up, and so it is with the pull of the West Country. "I was born and brought up there, and it digs deep into your heart and your roots," she says. "When I grew up I thought, 'My God, I'm free. I must get away and I can go anywhere in the world.' But as my mother has always said, 'Darling, you all rush off, but you all come tidling back'."

Now mother is a just a bicycle ride down the lane. That, mind you, is a four-mile bicycle ride.

On such a ride with Blair five years ago, the pair paused before what was to become their second home. "It was for sale and I wanted to look," she says. Her husband did not and confidently pointed out that, as it was a bank holiday, everything was closed. That, of course, was no trouble for his wife. She found someone to show them round.

They found the place dark, dull and gloomy. "I'm sure the previous owner didn't actually have a pointy hat or a broomstick but someone had certainly had a lot of cats," Mrs Stewart-Wilson says. "The place smelt, but I couldn't allow a mistake to be made. This was the one house I'd always wanted to live in. This was my gingerbread house."

She had been enchanted by the place many years earlier. "When I was a little girl and deeply into the pony stage, Daisy and I used to

exercise past the gingerbread house. The windows twinkled, the brass gleamed, the roses grew around the front door and it was love at first sight." She got older, the ponies got bigger and Mary Fox fell for and married Blair Stewart-Wilson. "But the house was still always twinkling at me. Once it was up for sale but Blair said, 'You're quite daffy, I'm a soldier and we can't afford it.'"

Five years ago it was on the market again. And Hansel and Gretel were not impressed with the condition in which they found it. Then, Gretel says, "I went upstairs, and suddenly I felt the whole house throbbing and saying 'I want to be loved, please buy me. I want to be opened up to fresh air and sunshine.' Who could resist such a plea?"

Not Mrs Stewart-Wilson. With

the help of an interior designer in Taunton, she painstakingly refurbished the house and brought it back to life.

"Everything was made locally," she says. "Now we have a very happy home in the gingerbread house in the middle of the village with the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker around every corner." She intends to retire to the country, the main trouble with town being the difficulty of keeping horses. "Mummy is rather fed up of keeping mine," she says. But she is reluctant to relinquish the half-and-half life.

"I enjoy working enormously," Mrs Stewart-Wilson says. "Most people think women of my age are senile. I'm living proof that a mother of three doesn't have to be put out to grass the day she reaches 50."

NICOLA MURPHY

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

The fur flies as eggs rain down

REPORTING on the birth of our spring lambs last week, I omitted to mention other harbingers of spring: namely Easter bunnies, spring chickens and daffodils. Firstly, I am suspicious of the bunnies. Every night they try to dig burrows in the middle of the sprouting barley, but having scraped away the top inch of soil find the ground too hard to penetrate. By way of consolation they stuff themselves with my precious young corn. Just when I had seen off the winged black vandals from the rookery, nature has mounted a bob-tailed attack from the rear.

Not being much of a shot, I haven't a clue what to do about rabbits. The birds could be scared away, but how do you frighten a rabbit? Read Beatrix Potter stories to it? I am told there is some kind of poison gas you can blow down the holes, but my inclinations are against using chemical sledgehammers to crack natural walnuts. One lad did offer to bring his ferret, but knowing my lost luck it would get lost down a burrow, the lad would burst into tears and I would end up having to mount one of those headline-catching rescue operations of the sort which extract snuck potholes, while the rabbits sit there laughing.

I suppose I could always train a ferret myself, but I have little inclination towards rodents, and even less to teaching them tricks. My aged copy of *Livestock on the Farm* devotes a whole chapter to "Ferret Management", beginning: "One cannot picture any animal so relentless, so filled with dogged perseverance, bloodthirstiness, and sheer love of slaughter as the ferret." It goes on: "At feeding times, they should always be called with the same word, 'Puggy-Puggy'." I discussed this with the family, who decided that "Puggy, puggy" was dangerously close to our usual call of "Pussy, pussy". Not a nice way for our cat

to go. So I decided against training ferrets and turned my mind to breeding chicks.

If I have had one humiliation in my farming career it has been my failure to produce a single egg for my own breakfast. I was given a banian hen and clutch of chicks last year, and fed the brood up in eager anticipation of the day when puberty struck them and they were laying pan each morning. Alas, every chick turned out to be a cockerel: noisy, thin, bony cockerels not fit for even the most poverty-stricken pot. My neighbour kindly agreed to dispatch them, as their 2.30am crowing was wearing him down as well as me.

He did a tidy job, but so impressed was the mother hen by the way in which her brood had been wiped out that she upped and left and went to live with him. Women always seem to go for rotters with guns. I vowed to be thoroughly unpleasant to the next hen we had in the hope that she might take a shine to me.

Then, last autumn, I was offered a box of chicks, all guaranteed to be hens. I put up a chicken-run made of tall poles and wire netting and released them from the box in which they arrived. Like the start of a ballroom race, they all took to the air and flew high into the branches of the oak trees, clucking contemptuously. I don't mind free-range hens, it is the free-range eggs that are a problem.

They now lay mainly among the hay in the barn, so that whenever I pull down a forkful, rotten egg drop like stinking rain. We try clipping the hens' wings so the couldn't fly. They flew. Which brings me to the daffodils. So far, alone of all living things on the farm, they are causing no trouble at all. From a window I can see them sway in... although it might be a rabbit signalling "all clear" to his mate, or there's a hen among them laying an egg.



Feather report

Duet of love on the wing

WATCHED spring catch igh at Minsmere bird reserve in Suffolk. Every day for 14 days I was there, and I learnt that one marsh harrier does not make a summer. I had seen her every day: creamy-headed and beautiful, gliding over the reedbeds, her wings held in a shallow V. Only one, and female.

Kestrels hover, sparrow-hawks dash, peregrines stoop and buzzards soar. Harriers quarter. They earn their living by gliding over the reedbeds, dropping silently on to voles and moorhens. When a harrier strikes, death comes in a whisper.

Only 15 years ago, marsh harriers were Britain's rarest breeding bird, with just one pair nesting. That was at Minsmere, a place where the normal rules of life seem sometimes to have been suspended. Last year, there were 40 nests

in the country, eight nests at Minsmere produced 27 chicks.

The reasons for the improvement are simple. First, there is less gamekeeping, and much less mindless gamekeeping. Second, DDT and related pesticides have been banned. These worked their way up through the food chain and had their most serious effect on the leading predators. To see a marsh harrier at Minsmere is a celebration that some battles in conservation have been won.

Well, no: to see two marsh harriers is to celebrate. But it was always one: always a creamy-headed female. Early days yet, no cause for worry - yet every time a Minsmere warden saw a marsh harrier, he hoped it was the first male to arrive.

The sexes are not hard to tell apart: females are mostly dark and creamy-headed, but



Rare sighting: a marsh harrier and chicks among the reeds

males have spectacularly tri-coloured wings: white background, black-tipped and chestnut-shouldered. When a male arrives, the business of spring can begin.

The holiday weekend came. And I saw him. It was about an hour after dawn, for I had been granted the privilege of entering the reserve out of visitor time, as I was research-

ing a book. I had already sighted the female, and seen her go down into the reeds. Then came the unmistakable male in his glorious colours, gloriously going down into the same patch of reeds. It was clear that the passions of spring had enflamed the reedbeds. Twice I saw the male go to the same spot, carrying sticks: a sign of

passion if ever there was one. Then the female and the male took to the air together, separated, and performed their habitual quartering of the reeds, finally coming together again and gliding side by side.

Then all at once, they spun around each other, talon to talon, as if passing something from male to female, and as suddenly, they were down in the reeds again.

This is just a small sample of marsh harrier excesses. They greet spring with the sky dance, which starts at 3,000ft. The male somersaults, loops the loop, crashdives, slews and spins, seeming at times to be totally out of control. The best sky dances get the best females.

Harriers also perform a ceremonial food pass, initially as part of courtship, later when the male provides for his mate during incubation. He passes a wonderful gift to the female: something no female could resist, such as a dead moorhen.

I had seen the pair perform a dummy pass. Watching them perform that fragment of courtship behaviour made me think of last year's Minsmere superstar, the trigonous male. The reserve had eight nests, with six males. There were five pairs, and one trigonist.

All males were thoroughly involved in the raising of young. The five ordinary males raised 16 chicks between them: the three nests of the trigonist raised 11. That rogue male was probably the single greatest hero of the conservation movement last year. And to win those three females, what sky dances he must have performed.

SIMON BARNES

What's about: *Birders* - listen for first willow warblers and blackcaps. Decent weather should bring in droves. *Twitche* - little bunting at Chippenham, Wiltshire. The American wigeon at Elmley RSPB reserve, Kent. Details from *Birdline* 0898 700222.

Country events

□ Daffodil weekend: Pretty village in bloom, with craft and craft demonstrations, plant, produce and charity stalls, morris dancing and a brass band. *Thripplow, near Royston, Herts. Today, tomorrow, noon-5pm; £2, child over five 50p, under-fives free.*

□ Review: Elizabethan dancing and craft demonstrations, including spinning, embroidery and wood-carving. *East Riddleston Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley, W Yorks (0535 607075). Tomorrow noon-5pm; £2, child £1.*

□ Guided bike ride: A 15-mile ride along quiet roads and reclaimed railway lines through West Durham. *Meet Broompark picnic area, a mile from Stonebridge on the road to Ushaw Moor, County Durham. Tomorrow, 2pm.*

□ Mischmossor Walk: Countryside ranger leads a nine-mile walk from Traquair to Yair, looking at flora, fauna and border history. *Meet Traquair Village Hall, two miles south of Innerleithen, Scottish borders. Tomorrow, 10am; £1, under-18s 50p.*

JUDY FROSHAUG

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17.50 19.50 21.50 23.50 25.50 27.50 29.50 31.50 33.50 35.50 37.50 39.50 41.50 43.50 45.50 47.50 49.50 51.50 53.50 55.50 57.50 59.50 61.50 63.50 65.50 67.50 69.50 71.50 73.50 75.50 77.50 79.50 81.50 83.50 85.50 87.50 89.50 91.50 93.50 95.50 97.50 99.50 101.50 103.50 105.50 107.50 109.50 111.50 113.50 115.50 117.50 119.50 121.50 123.50 125.50 127.50 129.50 131.50 133.50 135.50 137.50 139.50 141.50 143.50 145.50 147.50 149.50 151.50 153.50 155.50 157.50 159.50 161.50 163.50 165.50 167.50 169.50 171.50 173.50 175.50 177.50 179.50 181.50 183.50 185.50 187.50 189.50 191.50 193.50 195.50 197.50 199.50 201.50 203.50 205.50 207.50 209.50 211.50 213.50 215.50 217.50 219.50 221.50 223.50 225.50 227.50 229.50 231.50 233.50 235.50 237.50 239.50 241.50 243.50 245.50 247.50 249.50 251.50 253.50 255.50 257.50 259.50 261.50 263.50 265.50 267.50 269.50 271.50 273.50 275.50 277.50 279.50 281.50 283.50 285.50 287.50 289.50 291.50 293.50 295.50 297.50 299.50 301.50 303.50 305.50 307.50 309.50 311.50 313.50 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Crimes that cross centuries

...at Troy
...icycle

...through the head
...of Northern
...armies for
...principle, and is
...a father of four
...of expediency?
...moral outlook for
...the fellow-cra-
...ans loaded with
...send them crash-
...y checkpoints?
...wrote Philoctetes in
...phoebes probably
...the willingness of
...ed Athens to com-
...mes, such as the
...of Melos; but the
...accents in Ste-
...and Bob Crowley's
...and the adaptor's
...to police: widows
...ants of hunger-
...ending in grave-
...e, a less antique

...adaptor is Seamus
...not surprising the
...lucid and direct.
...a couple of chor-
...also remarkably
...the original. Ody-
...expressing an unwill-
...ness to trick lame
...the Ben Gunn of
...of the magic bow
...ch he cannot sur-
...ill bolstering his
...ments that cross
...Tribal solidarity,
...ity and practical
...demand unthink-
...ence. Murderous
...the end, which is
...ed full of Troy,
...it be ashamed,
...Elthamney's Ody-
...ou'll have the rest
...to be good, true
...rrible."

...Day Company has
...ments, and has
...le but red robes,
...and a hunk of
...from Derry to
...the roughness
...immediacy of the
...Elthamney's Ody-
...sary professional,
...to atrocity and
...us of weakness,
...friend or foe. Sean
...phoebus is no
...than a simple
...out of his moral
...McAuley's Philoc-
...a victim half-
...suffering. With
...his grey body,
...a blend of Caliban
...and he often sounds
...moans, too.



Des McAuley as Philoctetes in *The Cure at Troy*

...three-woman chorus chant
...hope, new life and "a great
...sea-change the other side
...of revenge". If Ulysses has to
...wait for Hercules to speak from
...the mountain before his fictions
...are reconciled, it will wait a
...long time.
...Yet this hardly sums up
...what the play has to say about
...Ulysses or, for that matter,
...anywhere else. What Heaney
...has made from the Athenian
...archives is, after all, a
...marvellously dramatic medita-
...tion on responsibility, jus-
...tice and forgiveness: a play for
...all seasons and seasons.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

TELEVISION REVIEW

Hellraisers in among the nuts

Lynne Truss on a *Don Giovanni* with street cred, and petty larceny among the squirrels in *Daylight Robbery 2*

Most comedy sketch shows on television have, at some point, resorted to the comic-subtitles routine. While a prima donna in outlandish Eastern garb wrings her hands and beats her breast, and sings incomprehensibly in a foreign language, bathetic subtitles appear on the screen. "The parking was terrible," she sobs at last, sinking to her knees and pressing a hand to her brow. Producing an asp from a box, she drops it into her bosom and sings an aria of sweet pathos. "Either this wallpaper goes, or I do."

Watching the Easter Monday *Don Giovanni* (BBC 2) was rather like having this joke turned into reality. Peter Sellers' American production, set in Spanish Harlem, fronted all sorts of elements in Mozart's opera that had previously lurked undetected - coke-snorting, for example, and the regurgitation of a hamburger back into its polystyrene box. But sophisticated opera audiences are accustomed to such incongruities: they no longer choke on their smoked-salmon sandwiches when the performers straddle cultures by singing arias and duets in the manner of 200 years ago, while dressing like Madonna in *Desperately Seeking Susan*. Sometimes they even applaud.

But this version surely took things too far. While singing the original Da Ponte libretto, the singers were attributed (through the sub-titles) with the worst kind of streetwise argot. "We're going to party till our brains are fried," sang the Don. "What?" "You put the make on me with all kinds of sweet-talk," lamented Donna Elvira (the Don had "snuck" into her house). On the other hand, long stretches sung by Don Otavio were not translated at all - presumably because they did not fit the production concept.

The only thing that could have plucked this more surreal would have been to hand the translation job over to Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer of *Vic Reeves Big Night Out* (Channel 4), allowing them to work in some of their catchphrases, such as "You're a



ingenious devices with levers, string and electric fencing which they hope will thwart persistent squirrels. Each time, however, the squirrel fixes the device with a long beady look, scribbles a few calculations on the back of a fag-packet, and skips off humming 'Here we go gathering nuts in May'

The squirrel fixes the device with a long beady look, scribbles a few calculations on the back of a fag-packet, and skips off humming 'Here we go gathering nuts in May'

work-shy fop, that's what you are". A black, leather-jacketed *Don Giovanni* singing in Italian of his horror at the supernatural appearance of the avenging Commendatore, translated as "You wouldn't let it lie, would you? You just wouldn't let it lie," might be a development in television opera production well worth considering.

Perhaps *Don Giovanni* seemed a let-down because it followed the repeat of Trevor Nunn's wonderful *Otello*, shown on Easter Monday afternoon. Or perhaps it was because I was still over-excited from the squirrel-show in *Daylight Robbery 2* (BBC 1). This investigation into squirrels as "bird-table burglars", against whom "back-garden battles" are waged, was a follow-up to the 1988 programme from which the "I bet he drinks Carling Black Label" sequence was taken. You know the one: a grey squirrel undertakes the kind of assault course normally associated with the Fleet Air Arm in the Royal Tournament - over this, down this, across there - all in the cause of reaching a few peanuts.

television week. Nor, alas, was *The Advocates* (STV), which is a further attempt (like *Shrinks*) at a home-grown L.I. Law. Somehow it completely failed to grip, having the dramatic tension of a raffia place-mat. When it was over, I asked myself whether I cared what happened next in each of the plot-lines, and discovered a streak of apathy of horrifying proportions. Did I care about Isla Blair, head of an ailing solicitors' practice in Edinburgh? I did not. Was I curious to know whether the nasty young pimp with the hook nose and pony-tail was going to be exposed? Nope.

In fact, the only detail in *The Advocates* that was interesting was the concept of the maverick solicitor, played by Ewan Stewart, who expressed his rebelliousness by dealing with his conveyancing with speed and panache. This was a novel twist, since most solicitors attempting to assert themselves choose the opposite tactic of placing their conveyancing in a drawer and leaving it there.

Out in space, and out of tunes

...ny Braxton/
...h McCorkle
...afe/Pizza on
...ie Park

...16th birthday com-
...thony Braxton is
...an enfant terrible.
...no other descrip-
...a artist who has
...much energy to
...self away on the
...musician who
...ans for a com-
...several orchestras
...galaxies is clearly
...mortal. Sun Ra
...ly implausible ex-
...ial claims, of
...there is no need to
...his word. What
...st is that his big
...on a thunderous

vaudeville show. There is nothing remotely theatrical about Braxton, apart from the spectacular brace of reed instruments on the stage.

This display by his quartet was certainly as unrelenting as ever. The experience was, if anything, even more exhausting than his epic solo saxophone recitals. In those at least, he sometimes compromises by playing standing and doing so with exceptional wit and finesse. Nothing so vulgar as a tune surfaced in the first hour-long set in Camden.

But there were fragments of tenacious group interplay, when the theorising about pulse structures and "the vibrational liquid of improvisation" began to make some sense. Braxton's hyper-ventilating dialogues with pianist Marilyn Crispell were invigorating for moments at a

time. But apart from the interludes of languorous alto phrasing, the remainder was as engaging as a Beckett play minus actors, scenery and dialogue.

Across town, the American singer Susannah McCorkle is approaching the end of her residency at Pizza on the Park. Like many of the vocalists who have been booked into the venue, she has won sterling reviews for her performances at the fabled Algonquin Hotel in New York.

A former translator and a published short-story writer, McCorkle has ten albums to her name. The latest of them, *Sabia*, is a sensitive, if over-long, excursion into Brazilian music. Although she was originally inspired by Billie Holiday - "My Man" made an appearance in her midnight set - McCorkle does not convey much in the way of raw

emotion. The emphasis is on poised, cut-glass arrangements that leave nothing to chance.

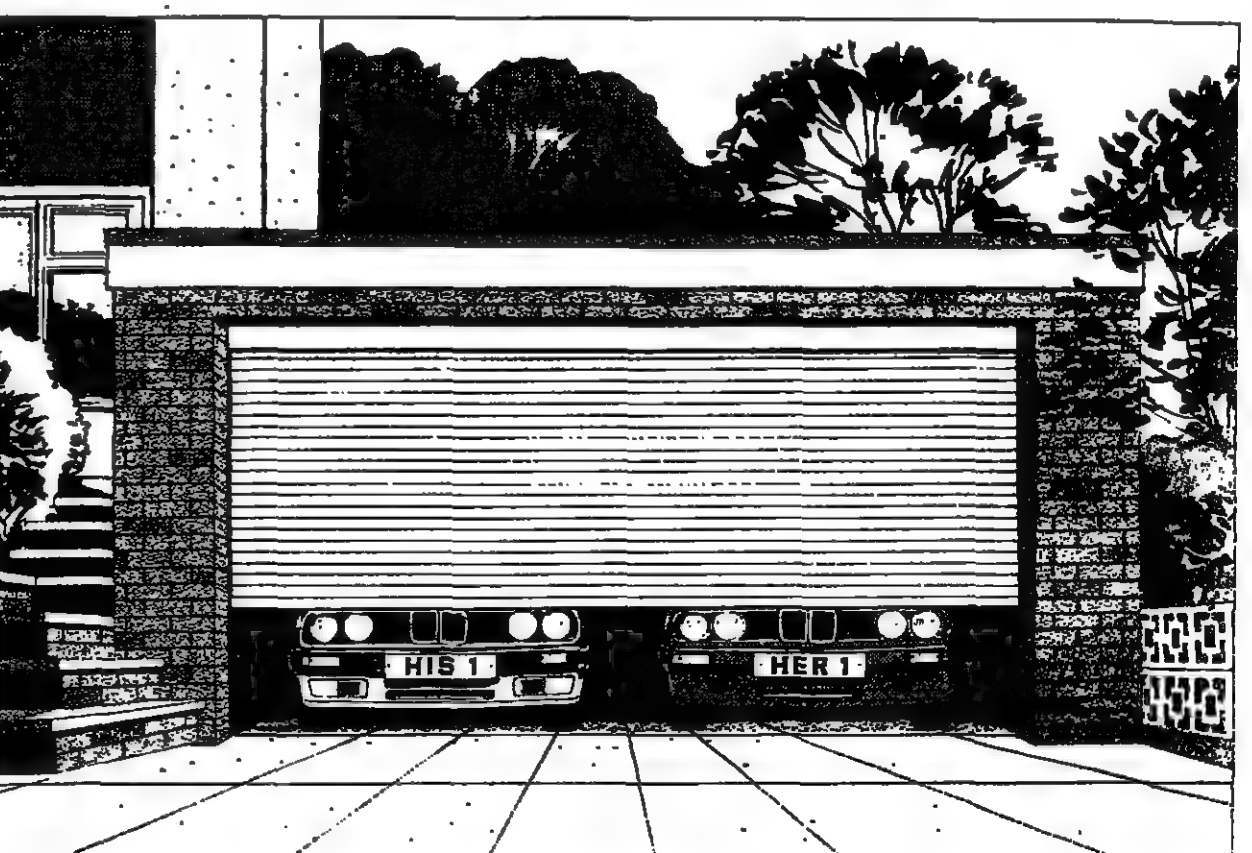
She casts her net far wider than most of her contemporaries; almost-forgotten melodies from Hollywood musicals find a place alongside the likes of "Let's Do It" and "Bye Bye Blues".

CLIVE DAVIS

THE SUNDAY TIMES Julia's star outburst

For hours the shivering redhead had been suffering for her art, running around with next-to-nothing on. Suddenly she insisted that she would refuse to carry on unless the mostly male camera crew joined her in a similar state of undress.

Hollywood's hottest property Julia Roberts, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow



Beam me up

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in a programme of
Schaubert and Tchaikovsky
Tickets £25, £18, £14, £10, £7, £4
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BBC Symphony Orchestra
Andrew Davis conductor
Daphne Sofronitsky violin
in a programme of Schostakovich
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Tickets £16, £12, £8, £3.50
For full details of programmes see
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BBC 2

Photographer on the air: guest Lord Lichfield (9.00am)

12.30am Level 42 — Fast Accompl. Documentary record of a hectic year in the life of the rock group, Level 42. Filmed in 1988 during the recording of their album *Staring at the Sun* and a subsequent world tour, the cameras go on-stage, backstage and off-stage and

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These Hawks at Night House, *Milburn and Young* (11.35cm)

50 Weather 7.00 News 7.30 Record 8.00 News 8.03 24 Hours 8.30 News 8.30
From the Weeklies 8.45 On the Record 9.00 News 9.09 World of Faith 9.15 A Joy
Over 10.00 News 10.05 Waveguide 10.15 Worldbrief 10.30 Personal View 11.00
News Summary 11.15 Cut 11.35 11.30 Londonix Mix News In French 11.45 Miltagames: News
German 12.00 Newsweek 12.20 Meridian 1.00 News 1.00 News About Britain 1.15
Multitask 3.145 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newsflash 3.00 News Summary 3.01 Sports 1.15
0.00 News 4.14 BBC English 4.30 News and Features in German including Weltaktuell
Newsdeutsch Betrachter 4.58 Travel News 5.00 News 5.15 BBC English 5.30 Londonix Mix: News

0.00 News 0.00 London's West End News in French
0.00 News 8.30 24 Hours: News Summary 8.30
News 9.09 Words of Faith 9.15 A Jolly Good
Yorkshire 10.30 Personal View 11.00 News
News in French 11.45 Mittagmagazin: News
1.00 News 1.09 News About Britain 1.15
3.00 News Summary 3.01 Sportsweek
Features in German including Wallpaper
5.15 BBC English 5.20 London's Star: News

4.00 **The Hit Man and Her.** With Pete Waterman and Michael Strahan

5.00 **The Twilight Zone: Curious Case of Edgar Wither.** Classic cult series journeying beyond time and space (r)

5.00 **WOLFGangner, Algren, with Sandra Dwyer.** Exp. at 6.00

Debussy, Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien, a symphonic fragment; Montreal Symphony Orchestra under Dutoit) 12.24pm Purcell (Incidental music for *Conductors: Taverner Choir/Academy of Ancient Music* under Howard

11.40 After Dark. Tonight's subject is serial killing and who's taking part in the discussion are John Sutcliffe, father of the "Yorkshire Ripper", Michael Winner, the director of the *Death Wish* films and Helen Zahavi, who has written about animal killing.

2.00 *News: Any Answers? Listeners respond to questions raised on Any Questions?*

2.30 *Saturday Playhouse: Harry Rolt Is Missing by Michael*

11.30 *The World of David: A bi new-world created and presented by John Davis with Jim Sweeney, Steve Stern, Cathryn Mearns, the Ronnie Golden Show*

[illegible]



Human tide: thousands of Kurdish refugees fleeing Saddam's repression pour over the mountains to seek sanctuary in Turkey — but an uncertain welcome awaits them in their search for a new homeland

Continued from page 1

hour walk to Zakho with her children, some barefoot and wearing only light shirts. They fled in panic when the shelling began. They were two days struggling through the mountains and a day waiting at the border. "Saddam is the biggest criminal. He is an unbeliever."

The men in the ward next door tell the same story. Salah Abdullah Ali lies with his leg bandaged to the top of his thigh. He says it was a phosphorous bomb, though the doctors at the hospital say none of the injuries was from

chemical weapons. He escaped from a hospital in Zakho before it was bombed and said that Iraqi soldiers appeared later and killed doctors, nurses and patients at random. "I saw many dead on the way here," he said. "Tell Bush about it," he implored in Arabic. "Tell him the truth about what happened to us. We must get rid of this

dictator." He was carried by friends for six days, his leg festering, his body freezing in the bitter cold of the snowy passes.

Tears well up as he tries to describe what he and his countrymen suffered. But many of the injured seem unable to say exactly when the Iraqis attacked or what they did. An older man in

a turban, Omar Yunis Salih, spoke of tanks that rolled into Dahuk, crashing through houses and crushing children under their tracks. "They shot everything with Kalashnikovs. Look," he said pulling back his striped long garment to reveal a bullet wound on his shoulder bone.

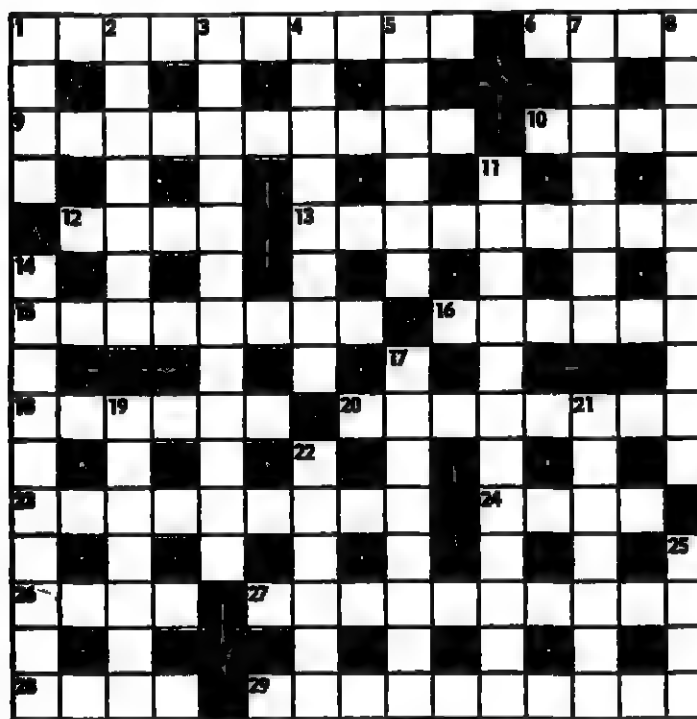
The hospital does what it can for the 32 injured

refugees who have been brought here. More than 5,000ft up, is the only big town area. Its people, themselves mainly Kurds, responded warmly to the refugees pouring the border, sending bread by the truck officialdom has been less welcoming. Refugees are being kept in emergency camps prevented from travelling inland.

One woman in the ward said they were three days on the other side at Cukura allowed through only because of her in soldiers kept her family on the other side

Refugees find haven from the killing

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,573



- ACROSS**
- Rating effective out from the shore (7-3).
 - River deity (4).
 - Fall out — European capital to lie within range (4,2,4).
 - Left the president, as it were (4).
 - Deer said to take catnaps here (4).
 - Amazed when we entered the vehicle (3-6).
 - Man and master both lose their edge as a result of drinking (8).
 - Flounder, perhaps, caught in the end (6).
 - Having broken a rule, seed No. 1 is to retire (6).
 - Fright caused by neuralgia (4-4).
 - Completely devoured by piggish creature (9).
 - Catch on a little branch (4).
 - Indian scalped a party (4).
 - Film-maker's yield wasn't extraordinary (4,6).
 - You will say it's a feast (4).
 - Calls for help seen to with difficulty (10).
- DOWN**
- Food — take a different course (4).
 - Verbal attack shedding light on hidden love (7).
 - Where Phidippiades excelled ultimately (2,3,4,3).
 - Burglar takes the fakes in error (2,6).
 - Note the gun lock (6).
 - A sort of titmus — one to cause reactions (7).
 - Burglar takes the fakes in error (5-5).
 - The kind of insurance needed by Liberal Democrats? (5-5).
 - Inventor given protection — a shelter, in pieces, oddly (8).
 - Strunk, having to bear confession, listens to start with (7).
 - A lot of hair beginning to grow in the place hair grows on (7).
 - One engaged in talk that's appropriate (6).
 - Several votes, or just one? (4).

Solutions to Puzzle No 18,572

ARTIFICER RABBIT
T O E R O A O E
L E M B E P I T H E T
A C U D E L E O
S E A N E X C I S E M A N
R I A A
S P A E X T R A V A G A N T
U E I C F O
B A C K M A R K E T C A R
M R L E E A
A P P E T I S E R R U R A L
R A O J M B E
I N R O A D S A V A R I C E
M E S O C T I N G
E L A T B A K S H E E S H

Solution to Puzzle No 18,567

J A M B L O C O N S T A B L E
N A M L O I L N
G O N D O L I E R F A U S T
E C T E S T E A
N O R T H A N G E R A B B I V
E T M R E
R E T U R N M A R Y L A N D
A R N N
L I A B O U T H A R D U P
A O V P S
P U T O N E S P O O T D O W N
I M D H T O S O
S T E A M E N T O U R A G E
Y N A L E N K N
E N T A N G L E D E A L T

PARKER DUOFOLD A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

By Philip Howard

TEGMEN
a. An advance guard
b. A coat or covering
c. The Ottoman legal code
PLUVIOUS
a. Weeping
b. Coming after
c. Rainy
JEREMIAH
a. A group of Yuppies
b. A lament or complaint
c. A double-edged wist
RECKLESS
a. Reckless or giving fun
b. Unfaithful or cowardly
c. Making new
Answers on page 11

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent Surrey Sussex	702
Doncaster & York	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire Gloucestershire	705
Berkshire Bucks Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northamptonshire	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincolnshire & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Cardiff & Newport	715
W & S Wales	716
W & S Wales & Dorset	717
N & E England	718
Cumbria & Lancashire	719
S & W Scotland	720
W & N Scotland	721
Central Scotland	722
East of Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N & W Scotland	725
Canterbury & Kent	726
N Ireland	727

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London & SE	731
C London (within N & S Circs)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	734
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National

National motorways..... 737
West Country..... 738
Wales..... 739
Midlands..... 740
East Angles..... 741
North-west England..... 742
North-east England..... 743
AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Concise Crossword, page 11

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: G J Bowis, Harrington Road, Brighton, Sussex; D S Gordon, Woodlands Grove, Isleworth, Middlesex; D Marriage, Northmill Cottage, Boiley, Southampton; M McDonald, Wood Lane, Bearwood, Dorset; J Brass, Fildborough Road, Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

WEATHER Early rain in Northern Ireland, west Wales and south-west England will spread to most other areas by the end of the day. The rain will be followed by broken cloud and blustery showers, this clearer weather reaching the whole of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and southern Scotland by midnight. Winds will become strong everywhere, with gales in parts of the South and West. Outlook: blustery showers

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BUSINESS

Deputy Business Editor
Robert Ballantyne

SATURDAY APRIL 6 1991

Defence contractors to be given greater freedom



McIntosh: jobs to go

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFENCE contractors are to be given a freer hand in developing products and managing programmes, according to the new chief of defence procurement.

Malcolm McIntosh, an Australian who took over the helm at British industry's biggest customer last month, indicated that he expects to continue the trend set by Sir Peter Levene, his predecessor, towards a more market-oriented buying policy.

Whatever the outcome of the Options for Change defence review,

Dr McIntosh's policies, exercised through purchases totalling £8 billion a year, will have a far-reaching impact on many British companies.

Placing Ministry of Defence work under private companies' control may modestly cushion contractors from reduced government arms purchases. But it will lead to accelerated job losses among the procurement executive's 33,000 staff. Dr McIntosh said: "I do not want to be drawn on how many jobs will go."

His executive is planning to relocate 3,500 Ministry of Defence staff in London and the Southeast to Keynsham, near Bristol, producing savings of £50 million a year. Sub-

departments are also being reshaped along commercial lines as defence support agencies, with inbuilt pressures to contain costs.

During his first press interview since assuming control, the former head of Australia's defence procurement agency said industry would have to be given more information if it was to take increased responsibility for programmes. He expected that a handful of prime contractors might emerge, relying upon a broad spread of sub-contractors.

As computer software assumes an increasingly critical role in weapon performance, systems companies might increasingly be considered for

the prime role, but only if they were commercially robust.

However, he had little time for artificial consortia. "We want to deal with a real entity of real substance," he said.

Dr McIntosh said weapon buyers would focus increasingly on the whole life cost of defence systems, including maintenance and refurbishment costs as well as the original purchase price in their calculations.

Companies will be asked to take more responsibility for quality and reliability.

Under his management, the Australian procurement agency contracted to obtain training aircraft on

the basis of hours of availability. The contractor had control over the number of planes and maintenance.

Dr McIntosh said that although such a technique might be inappropriate for combat planes, the deal could provide a model for wider application.

The new chief took pains to dismiss early industry fears that he had close links with American arms makers that might lead to accelerated overseas purchases. He said he already knew the British arms industry better. He has undertaken a tour of UK defence contractors. Some were excellent, others were not, he said.

Shares break record

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Jobless rate in US leaps to four-year high

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE American un-
employment rate surged to
6.8 per cent last month,
its highest for more than
four years, putting
pressure on the Federal
Reserve to cut interest rates
further. About 2 million
Americans have joined
the dole queue since last
summer.

The dollar dropped im-
mediately on release of the
figures but started to climb
later after bottoming out at
about DM1.6550.

A rise of 410,000, or 0.3 per
cent, in civilian jobless last
month was far worse than
Wall Street economists had
expected and gave little sup-
port to the administration's
hopes that the economy will
recover by mid-year.

The rise, the fifth monthly
increase in a row, indicated
companies were continuing to
shed labour heavily, despite
the improvement in consumer
and business confidence after
the end of the Gulf war.

Analysts were disturbed by
the sharp revision to the
February figures, which now
give a 290,000 rise in the
numbers of jobless, against the
185,000 initially reported.

The labour department fig-
ures showed a 206,000 fall in
payrolls in March, the sixth
successive month of job-out-
ting, marking the worst de-
cline in the labour market
since the 1980-1 recession.

Unemployment could
continue rising until well after
the economy has started to re-
cover, with some analysts
predicting that a further
300,000 will become jobless.

Angus Armstrong, econ-
omist at Morgan Grenfell, said
recovery is not likely before
the third quarter and will only
be modest when it comes.
Manufacturing, construction
and the retail and wholesale
trades accounted for most of
the March job losses, as they
have for most of the recession.

The latest weekly data, show-
ing a 33,000 surge in un-
employment benefit
applicants, signalled a further
deterioration.

Janet Norwood, of the Bu-
reau of Labour Statistics, said
the decline that has affected
manufacturing jobs for more
than two years was spreading
to the service sector. She
noted that those with jobs
were working almost an hour
less a week than last summer.

Jobs losses in car manufac-
turing and the metal industry
have started to moderate, but
large declines are still hitting
publishing, rubbers and
plastics.

Although the figures in-
creased the pressure on the
Fed to ease, it could be waiting
until Friday's March con-
sumer price figures for fresh
guidance on inflation.

After a volatile day, the
dollar ended in London at its
best, as late buying orders

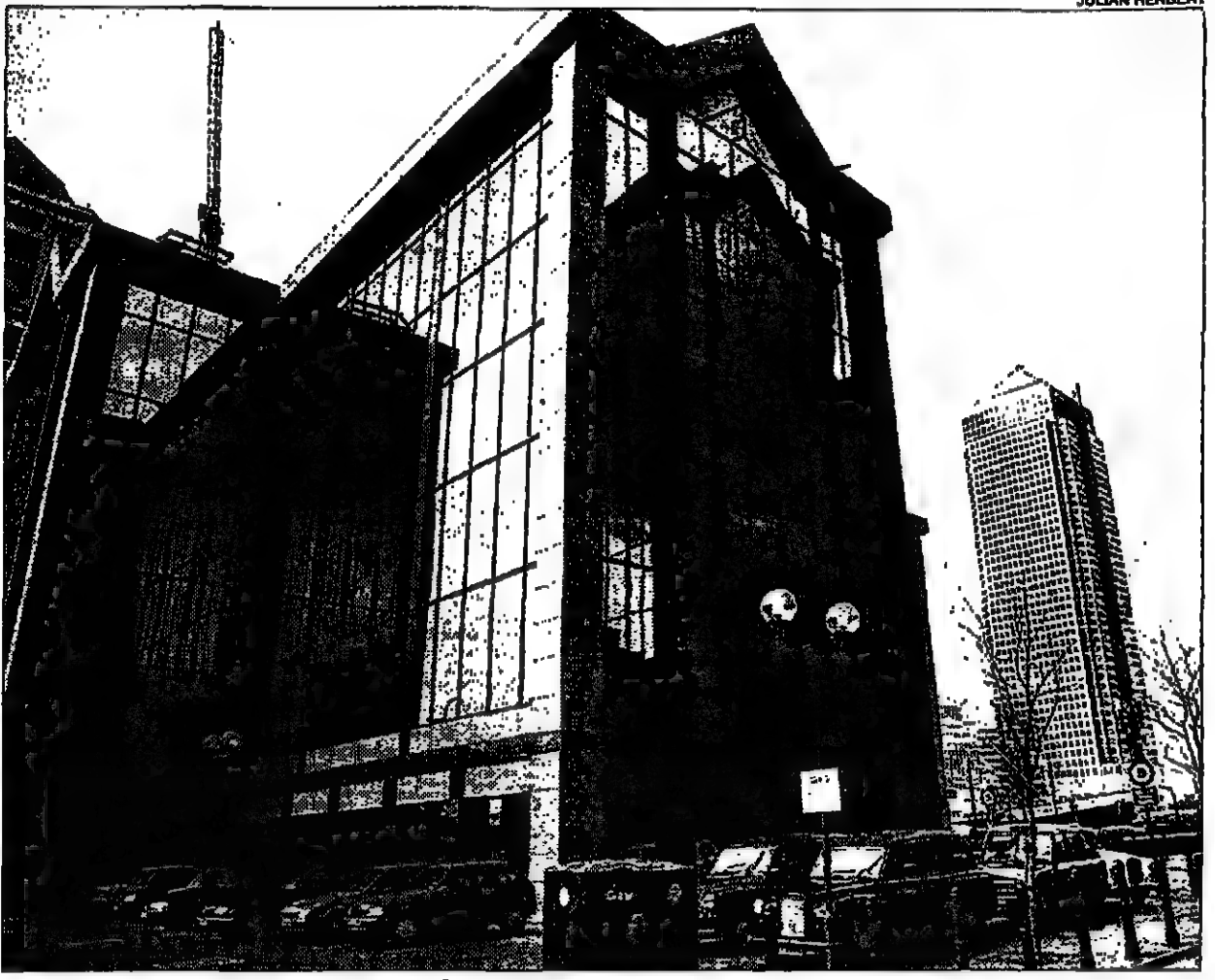
appeared and dealers scram-
bled to avoid being caught
short of dollars going into the
weekend. The possibility of a
cut in American interest rates
failed to undermine sentiment
for the currency.

The pound had a fairly good
day to end a good week,
ignoring the government's
poor showing in the Neath by-
elections and underpinned by
Germany holding its interest
rates unchanged.

With sterling second from
top in the European exchange-
rate mechanism, market pres-
sure is building for a fresh cut
in British interest rates, pos-
sibly as early as Friday when
the March inflation figures are
published. Money market
rates eased, with three-month
interbank rates 1/8 lower at
12 1/4.

At the London close, the
pound was 45 points down
against the dollar at \$1.7790,
having touched \$1.80. Ster-
ling gained almost three quar-
ters of a pence to DM2.9810.
The pound's trade-weighted
index finished 0.1 higher at
92.8. The dollar, closed three
quarters of a pence higher at
DM1.6740.

Industry orders in former
West Germany fell a pro-
visional 5.1 per cent in Feb-
ruary after a 3.6 per cent rise
in January, official figures
showed. Domestic orders were
5 per cent lower in February,
while foreign orders dropped
4.5 per cent.



Moving up: the Telegraph's building at South Quay, flanked by its new Docklands home, the Canary Wharf tower

O&Y carrot carries £40m price tag

By MATTHEW BOND

OLYMPIA & York paid the Daily
Telegraph group £40 million for its five-
year-old headquarters building on the
isle of Dogs in London's Docklands.
Buying the building was the largest
element in a package of inducements
that persuaded the Telegraph group to
move to O&Y's nearby Canary Wharf
development. The price O&Y paid is
revealed in the Telegraph's latest report
and accounts.

The Telegraph bought its 103,000 sq ft
building at South Quay for about £25
million in 1986. However, its total book
cost according to the accounts was £32.2

million before depreciation.

The Telegraph, which moved to
Docklands in 1987, is still in phase one
on South Quay, but of the matching
buildings next door, phase 2 is still
letting and phase 3 went into receiver-
ship last year. Phase 2, owned by
Rosehaugh, is more than three-quarters
let after a three-year marketing cam-
paign. Phase 3, which was bought from
the receiver this year, is available for
letting at just £10 a sq ft, the lowest rent
for new offices in London.

At £40 million, the price of the
Telegraph building is almost £390 a sq ft.
At their peak, rents for non-Canary

Wharf Docklands office property were
£20 a sq ft, indicating a theoretical yield
for O&Y of 5.1 per cent. At £10 a sq ft,
the initial yield would be 2.6 per cent.

The company will from autumn
occupy floors 11-15 rather than floors 7-
11, as announced last year.

Olympia & York has included several
inducements to other firms to let the first
stages of Canary Wharf, including
significant rent-free periods and some
fitting-out costs, and even boats to
reduce the impact of transport problems.

The Telegraph, however, as a Dock-
lands pioneer, has already invested in its
own water-borne transport.

European banks in £300m link

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

COMMERZBANK and Crédit
Lyonnais, two of Europe's
largest banks, are poised to
announce a £300 million
cross-shareholding to cement
a co-operation agreement.

The deal is the latest move
by continental banks to ex-
ploit the single European
market.

Commerzbank is expected to
take a 7 per cent stake in
Lyonnais, worth Fr1.2 billion
at market prices, while the
state-controlled French bank
will buy a 10 per cent holding
in Commerzbank, valued at
DM460 million.

Both banks have refused to
comment on their plans for a
cross-holding but Walter
Seipp, Commerzbank's chair-
man, said in February that
negotiations about a cross-
holding were proceeding well.

Reports in the French press
predict an announcement on

Wednesday when Commerz-
bank publishes its results for
1990.

The cross-holding will cement
a long-standing relation-
ship between the two banks.
Both have been members of
Europartners, a loose confed-
eration of banks, since 1971.

Commerzbank has already
taken a cross-holding with one
other member of Europartners,
Banco Hispano Americano
in Spain. Commerzbank holds
10 per cent of BHA, which in turn owns 5 per cent
of the German bank.

The two banks co-operate
closely in their European
property lending business, and
have issued joint credit cards
for business travellers.

If the deal is approved,
Commerzbank will hold the
only voting shares in Lyonnais
not controlled by the French
government.

Revenue may win £350m windfall

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Inland Revenue will
receive a windfall payment of
an extra £350 million unless
all non-taxpayers register for
gross interest on their savings,
the Treasury has admitted.

Composite rate tax (CRT) is
abolished from today. Previ-
ously the tax on savings was
deducted at source and could
not be reclaimed by non-
taxpayers.

CRT has been replaced by
basic rate tax that need not be
paid by non-taxpayers and can
be claimed back by them if it is
deducted. However, the 15
million non-taxpayers have to
register for gross payment of
interest and the Inland Revenue
estimates that only half
have done so. This means that
the others will have basic rate
tax deducted and will not be
able to reclaim it until next
April 6.

At Abbey National, 1.1

million savers have registered
for gross interest. This is about
one eighth of its savers. The
bank estimates a quarter prob-
ably qualify for gross interest.

Because the full 15 million
will not be registered by the
time interest is paid on sav-
ings accounts, banks and
building societies will deduct
hundreds of millions of
pounds in tax from non-
taxpayers.

The Treasury puts the figure
at £350 million, but it could be
higher if the Inland Revenue
estimates that about 7 million
non-taxpayers are now regis-
tered is wrong.

In 1989-90, £3.7 billion was
paid by building societies in
composite rate tax. In the
same year the banks handed
over £703 million.

Comment, page 27
Savers losing out, page 29

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UCB GROUP
More than just a bank

A Pifco start to the day

By MATTHEW BOND

IF THERE were a monopoly on the
getting-up-in-the-morning market then
Pifco, the electrical goods group, would
be assured of a referral to the monopolies
commission.

Its £7.75 million purchase of Russell
Hobbs Tower from the administrators of
Polly Peck International has given Pifco
a full range of products to help the man
or woman who has everything tread the
often difficult early morning path from
warm bed to front door.

Pifco man's day starts, perhaps, with a
Carmen Man clean shave, or perhaps a
quick session with the cordless beard
trimmer. His clothes are meanwhile
enjoying similar pampering, thanks to
the Carmen heated trouser press and
Pifco steam iron. However, even new age
man will wonder what a Pifco clothes
shaver supreme does.

Pifco woman has a similar brand-
laden start to the day. Having kick-

started the day with a quick cup of
instant coffee brewed with the help of the
Worldwide mini boiler, she makes it to
the bathroom, where Carmen's curling
tongs and hairdryer ensure her crowning
glory starts the day in peak condition. If
she's feeling particularly brave, she
might risk a session with her Carmen
Emjoi, the latest in electrical depilators.

But it is when Pifco men and women
reach the kitchen that the real benefits
of the Russell Hobbs Tower purchase
become clear. With Russell Hobbs on
board, Pifco will for the first time enter
the kettle market. Michael Webber, the
chairman, has been anxious to fill this
hole in his range for some time. Pifco
was the under-bidder to Polly Peck when
it bought Russell Hobbs Tower in 1987.

While Pifco man reaches for the kettle
and his first cup of tea, Pifco woman has
a choice. Does she use her Salton
cappuccinatore or one of the newly
acquired Russell Hobbs coffee makers?
Having already had one dose of caffeine,

she reaches instead for her Salton
yoghurt maker, while Pifco man boils an
egg in the Tower non-stick saucepan.

Mr Webber is delighted with the new
brands the acquisition brings on board,
and the price, which involved Polly Peck
writing off some £40 million of debt.
Yesterday he pointed out that at £7.75
million, the purchase price was at a 45
per cent discount to Russell Hobbs
Tower's year-end net asset value of £14.3
million.

There is of course a reason for the
discount. Unaudited figures show Rus-
sell Hobbs Tower made pre-tax losses of
£8.8 million on sales of £37 million. He is
confident that the company can be
turned around, and plans to retain
manufacturing at the company's Wol-
verhampton plant, where 650 staff are
employed.

No corporate recovery is easy, but
when the going gets tough Mr Webber
can always relax with his Carmen deep
heat massager, or the Pifco foot massager.

FPP's app ferential

Claimants should ring 0254-53277

Claimants should ring 0254-53277

Claimants should ring 0254-53277

[illegible][illegible]

© Ex dividend • Ex alt b Forecast dividend • Loss payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend t yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figure Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip share split i Tax-free .. No significant data.

STOCK MARKET

WALL STREET

Hopes of cut in US rates push shares higher

Cluff Resources

CLUFF Resources, one of the early pioneers in Zimbabwe after independence and currently extensively searching in Ghana's fabled Ashanti region for additional gold deposits, could soon prove the dictum: Out of Africa, always something new.

Cluff, whose pre-tax profits last year rose from £2 million to £2.51 million and which, unusually for an exploration

company, also has a substantial above-and-beyond news of the potentially promising Bokosi gold deposit in Ghana may not be far off.

The group, which is virtually debt free having floated 15 per cent of the Zimbabwean subsidiary last year, has also cast its eye over vanadium deposits and diamond claims in Zimbabwe. The group's more exciting diamond interests lie, however, in Australia, where its associate is examining the Copeton field in New South Wales.

impossible.

A clutch of European interests to strengthen its non-African earnings would assist the investment case, and although income from energy interests seems unrewarding Cluff's oil and gas efforts could soon prove justified.

Cluff shares at 53p, with Hutchinson Whampoa a 24.5 per cent shareholder, are not without interest in an otherwise depressed gold mining sector.

lion shares as total turnover for the day reached 3 million. Followers say it may have been one fund manager choosing to take a profit. Last month, the group obtained an American depository receipt facility and the share price has performed strongly since. But the shares were placed relatively easily underlining how short of stock this market is.

Cable and Wireless spent a volatile session ending 1

Coats Viyella, bidding 65p a share cash for rival Tootal, fell 5p to 157p.

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UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

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MONEY MARKETS

بِكَذَا مِنْ الْأَخْصَارِ

No excuses left for power sale



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

problems with the Scottish electricity share sale have already begun. Too many, apparently, are showing interest in the sale of the two electricity companies, Scottish Power and Hydro-Electricity, for the registration lines to be as short as they should be. After all the practice with privatisations, protestations that so many are interested, are not an adequate answer.

Scottish Electricity share information office advises people to register to buy shares, write a letter or clip a coupon from their newspaper and post it. How do they know that there are enough people to empty mail sacks if the share information office is already flooded?

200 lines are busy from 11pm to 11pm and potential investors even report difficulties getting through at 3.30am. When get through, they invariably find a recorded message telling them that there is no one to deal with their calls. The share

information office said that the response has exceeded expectations and that it is "actively working on increasing the number of lines available". This alone will not provide the answer. New operators have to be trained, a spokeswoman said, and those who staff the phones in the week have already been asked to work at weekends as well.

The information office said that there is still plenty of time to register. Investors who registered for previous privatisations know better. If they leave it until all the extra lines are in and a new team of operators is trained, they may hit the peak for registrations in the few days before the anticipated deadline in mid-May.

Calls are apparently taking longer than with previous privatisations because the operators are asking callers to spell their names. This might explain

why there are still dissatisfied investors who have been waiting for cheques and certificates for the 12 English distribution companies since before Christmas. Others who registered for National Power and PowerGen received their application forms too late.

Only those who register will get the bonus shares or reduced instalments. With National Power and PowerGen only those who managed to register got any shares at all.

The spokeswoman stressed that there were no technical

difficulties with the telephone system, other than that it was overworked. The address for those unable to get through by phone is PO Box 1001, Glasgow G73 1YY.

Tax axed

One of the unfair taxes has finally been axed. Composite rate tax took from the poor and gave to the rich. Those whose incomes were below the tax threshold still had the tax deducted from savings

and could not reclaim it. Taxpayers were charged the lower composite rate tax and if they were basic rate taxpayers, had nothing else to pay.

The system had to be reformed to stop billions of pounds flooding offshore when independent taxation was introduced. Building societies and banks argued it was no use giving married women a tax allowance if they could not use it to set against their savings.

Unfortunately, it appears that the saving public are slow to appreciate the new system which begins today. Basic rate tax will be automatically deducted from interest unless the account holder has registered as a non-taxpayer. Then they will get their interest paid without deduction of tax.

Building societies and banks report that far fewer accounts have been registered for gross

payment of interest than they would have expected by now. Every household should have been sent a leaflet explaining the new system. Now is the time for non-taxpayers to fill in the attached application forms and take them to banks and building societies, before any interest is credited to accounts.

Even the Inland Revenue wants all the people who qualify for gross interest to register. Less tax may be collected but it also means the administration costs should be lower than if the majority waits and reclaims overpaid tax.

Banks and building societies will be able to pay interest gross retrospectively, but it will be much easier for all concerned if people register before any interest is paid. The best way to celebrate the end of this unfair tax is to make sure the new system is used by anyone who can benefit. Children, women who receive no pay, students and pensioners should be the main beneficiaries. They must register now.

Mortgage misery for thousands with top-up loans

Barbara Ellis
reports on the
high interest
rates being
charged to
some buyers

EVERS who took cent mortgages at of the housing 1988 are now being a mortgage rate of cent on the top-up loans. Thousands have just rate jump from cent.

these borrowers have been locked in to the loans by falling rates. They cannot get their homes as the outstanding many cases, they are double tax relief mortgage.

buyers are also deal with a new Provincial Bank, a of the collapsed Commonwealth

its mortgage book Top-Up Mortgage Services, and

Provincial Bank Mortgage Service the Council of lenders, so bor- thone of the proto- in the council's practice on trans-

increase is partic- for borrowers who

John Charcol, once they received hat the rate would be London Inter- Rate (Libor)

at, sold between £7 £10 million in uns as the top-up 00 per cent mort-

a. Ian Darby, the director, said that as on the interest- tal only and not any of the legally

age terms and

indication we, had received that be the pricing the book. That was maintained

was in Provin- trol."

that Charcol of Provincial of when borrowers

lning. borrowers was of London, who 66,000 endow-

ge package via uly 1988, with the Britannia ty, at an initial

cent, and the from Provincial 5 per cent.

on, Ms Orfin nial Bank loan as never more our percentage

points above the main building society mortgage rates.

Her first indication that her mortgage had changed hands came last October in a letter from Peter Carroll, a director of Provincial Bank, informing her of the transfer to Top-Up Mortgage Services, a month after the event.

The next communication was a letter from Top-Up Mortgage Services, dated March 8: "Interest rates have been at a very high level, but we maintained the mortgage level hoping for substantial cuts in money market rates.

Inter-bank interest rates have shown only a modest decline and we are unable to absorb these increases."

The letter then indicated Ms Orfin's new monthly payment in money terms only - 20 per cent higher than before - without mentioning the interest rate.

Ms Orfin said: "I wrote to them saying that the increase was unfair when market rates all over Europe are coming down and due to come down further. I asked them to reconsider."

Top-Up Mortgage Services' reply, dated March 21, said the interest rate on the mortgage was variable on seven days' notice and that the loan was a second mortgage, not comparable with first mortgages because of the higher risk profile. "The rate charged on your account with effect from April 1 will be 22.125 per cent," it said.

Ms Orfin's approach to John Charcol met with a similar lack of success.

Mr Darby said: "Unfortunately the people concerned are in a difficult position."

Most of the Provincial Bank top-up mortgages had been taken out in 1988. Properties bought then on 100 per cent loans were unlikely still to be worth that 100 per cent amount, which closed off the escape route of remortgaging.

Mr Darby conceded that his firm's clients had been led to believe in conversation, though not in writing, that the Libor plus 3 per cent pricing policy would continue. "I am

afraid to say that is fair comment."

At Provincial Bank, Mr Carroll said that there had been a lot of reaction to the rate increase by Top-Up Mortgage Services.

"I am telling them that the mortgage is no longer our asset and we have to refer them to Top-Up Mortgage Services," he said. "We are not in a position to do anything."

Top-Up Mortgage Services, incorporated in January 1988, is owned by the TAF Group, formerly Tiphook Associated Finance, and David Massie. TAF Group is owned by Tiphook plc, Caversham Trustees, of Jersey, and David Massie. Companies House records show Mr Massie's nationality, business occupation and date of birth as "N/A" - not available.

Last April, Top-Up Mortgage Services was served with a striking-off notice under Section 652 of the Companies Act. However, the notice was withdrawn in May after action by the company.

Mr Massie said he was surprised that the Companies House file did not carry information on him, as this had been filed by his legal department. His nationality is British, his passport states his occupation as "banker" and he is aged 35. He said that the striking-off notice was a technicality relating to an oversight that caused late filing. This was quickly rectified.

Mr Massie declined to answer questions about the size of the mortgage book bought from Provincial Bank, or the number of people involved, saying the matter was governed by a confidentiality clause in the purchase agreement with Provincial. He referred questions back to Provincial.

He said that the rate increase was effected to bring Top-Up Mortgage Services' rate in line with other lenders. Pippa Rudolph, at Chase de Vere's mortgage division in Bath, called 22.125 per cent "absolutely phenomenal: more like a personal loan rate than a mortgage."

Mr Massie said that his company had conformed with the obligations it had under the mortgage deeds when notifying customers of its rate change.

"If any specific customers have particular difficulties or will be caused particular difficulties by the rate increase, then, as a responsible lender, we encourage them to contact us at the first opportunity and try and deal sympathetically with their case," he said.



Fluctuating fortunes: foreign currency mortgages have left Patrick Nafziger threatened with repossession and facing losses of £100,000

The high cost of foreign currency

By LIZ DOLAN

TWO years ago, Patrick Nafziger decided to take advantage of the low interest rates available on foreign currency mortgages. He now faces losing his home, and says the affair has cost him £100,000.

Mr Nafziger bought his home in 1984 and decided to remortgage it, in January 1989, to bring in "a bit of working capital".

Royal Trust (Isle of Man) offered to lend him £210,000, which, at the time, was 60 per cent of the value of his home. The loan was initially in Swiss francs, at an interest rate of 8.5 per cent.

He said: "It all went so well at first. It was so low compared with what I would have had to pay in sterling."

Mr Nafziger, who converts houses for letting, decided to remortgage all his other properties, by the same route and in April 1990, he remortgaged five flats and a house with the Royal Trust's branch in Cannon Street, London.

The mortgage on Mr Nafziger's home had allowed him to switch into other currencies at any time. But the new loan required him to give three month's notice.

Things then started to go wrong. He says a three-month wait before switching from the Swiss franc into the American dollar cost him £43,000. The Isle of Man branch suggested he turn over the house loan to a currency management company which switched his loan into Japanese yen, at Y260 to the pound. "Over three months it fell to Y290. The original £210,000 loan had jumped to £240,000," he says.

The bank revalued his home. It had fallen from £360,000 to £275,000 and the loan, now £254,000, was way over the 70 per cent trigger point at which the bank could insist on converting the loan to high interest sterling.

Now threatened with repossession and huge losses, Mr Nafziger is hoping to save something from the mess in a meeting with the bank next week.

Royal Trust says it never discusses individual cases, but it advises people who want to take out a foreign currency mortgage to take advice first.

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ginnerman will not commit last-minute scheme to pay at that level of return. Once money has been handed out, investors should receive a receipt. This should confirm that the investment has been made. Regular reports should also be given.

However, people should be nervous if their investments seem to be doing well when everything else is doing badly. Another danger sign is when an adviser suggests regularly making a withdrawal to earn commission that will eat into the performance.

How to Spot the Investment Cowboys. SIB, Gavriel House, 214 Bimhill Row, London EC1Y 8RA.

From Mr B. Bottomley
Sir, Mr H.C. Honeyt
(Weekend Money, 16
March 1966) strikes a chord
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a calculation by the
Revenue relating to his
rate tax assessment. My l
of enquiry produced, af
delay of six weeks, a re-
calculation with an end p
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original, but without a c
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apology or explanation.
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"Civil" Service.

Yours faithfully,
B. BOTTOMLEY,
March, Surrey Gardens,
East Horsley, Surrey.

From R. Colegate
Sir, In his letter (Weekend

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Ombudsman condemns use of nurses as insurance spies

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE use of "disability counsellors" to make unannounced calls on people claiming income from insurance policies was questioned by the insurance ombudsman this week.

Dr Julian Farrand, in his annual report, said that disputes involving permanent health insurance and other policies that pay out when a policyholder is permanently or temporarily disabled, often centred on whether the person was actually disabled.

Insurers do not want to pay if a person is fit for work. Some companies use private detectives, but it is the use of trained nurses as "counsellors" that has caused most concern. They usually call upon the claimant without appointment, to check on claim validity.

People who have complained to the ombudsman are angry about what they see as attempts to catch them out. They say counsellors gain claimants' confidence by failing to disclose that they are acting for the insurer.

After considering several cases, Dr Farrand ruled that the companies were entitled to make such enquiries and to give the counsellors confidential information about the policyholders, but their role must be made clear at the outset. He said: "It is undesirable for claimants to be discouraged to discuss their medical condition with someone who they have been led to believe is independent."

He said: "Before an insurer appoints a 'disability counsellor', proper consideration should be given to whether this is more likely to be helpful than harmful in the circumstances of the claimant."

Dr Farrand said: "Some policyholders get very upset. If the disability is related to a nervous condition they may

become worse because of such a visit."

He has, therefore, ruled in several cases that although the claimants have not suffered any financial loss as a result of such visits, they should be compensated for the "upset and distress" caused by the companies involved. Awards of several hundred pounds have already been made.

The maximum compensation for distress was awarded to a driver who was issued with an invalid insurance certificate. As a result, he was prosecuted and convicted through no fault of his own. He was awarded £3,000 by the ombudsman.

The ombudsman handled more than 1,900 cases last year and awarded a total of £1.27 million to 600 of the claimants. He is based at 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HL. Telephone: 071-242 8613.



Farrand: disabled checks unfair



Haswell: rebuffed complaints

New approach may lift premium

By BARBARA ELLIS

DR JULIAN Farrand has in several areas taken a policyholder line that completely contradicts decisions made by James Haswell, his forerunner. However, people rejected under the old regime will not be able to have their cases re-opened.

Paradoxically, the most immediate result of this new approach may be higher premiums and tighter wording of policies.

The ombudsman's terms of reference, published for the first time this week, appear to allow him scope to intervene with companies on premiums and underwriting. Mr Haswell remarked in his last report that "a contract of insurance is

a contract of... utmost good faith." He added: "The principle works both ways, but inevitably there are more instances where it is required of the insured person than of the insurer."

Dr Farrand agreed that this was numerically so, but noted: "It sometimes seems forgotten that this duty of utmost good faith must be borne by insurers, too."

Calling for fair dealing at all stages, he said insurers should abandon their "completely improper" practice of deliberately offering policyholders less than they are entitled to, for example, on lost property or a written-off car.

People who complained to Mr Haswell about deductions for capital gains tax from the

proceeds of insurance bonds were fairly smartly rebuffed. He said in 1987: "I do not find my heart bleeding for those whose investments yield handsome returns in spite of the CGT deductions."

However, Dr Farrand said that any company with literature promising a "small" deduction for capital gains tax should not deduct any more than 5 per cent of the unit value.

He also took an opposite view to Mr Haswell on accident depreciation, saying that policyholders should be able to claim for the reduction in value caused when a car or other property is repaired after accidental damage.

Dr Farrand said that people who had been rejected by Mr

Haswell would not be able to go to him for a difficult decision, but would be able to go to the courts, armed with the numerous legal precedents cited in his report.

Tom Roberts of Ge Accident, who is also a member of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau's board, he did not expect re-open claims to take account of accident depreciation. He said: "Once a claim is settled, it is settled."

Dr Farrand's report is clear that he handles complaints about loaded claims. However, the ombudsman's terms of reference published for the first time do not appear to prevent him from looking at underwriting decisions.

BRIEFINGS

COMMERCIAL Union is offering owners of guest houses a bedroom-based insurance policy. It is intended for owner-occupied premises with up to ten private and guest bedrooms. Based on CU's domestic Keyplan policy, the plan insures contents for up to £60,000, and business interruption for up to £250,000.

□ *Welcome to the Investment House* is a free unit trust handbook published by Save & Prosper that explains documents, reports and statements and advises on how to find out the value of units, how income is paid and how to sell units.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Variable rate	Compounded at 8% 90% 95%	Minimum investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.65	2.86	2.12	none/none	7 day
Typical					
Fixed Term Deposits					
Barclays	8.48	8.78	8.78	35,000-50,000	1 mth 071-628 1587
	8.67	8.67	8.54	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-628 1587
Lloyds	7.78	7.78	8.22	2,500-no max	1 mth Local Branch
	7.78	7.78	8.22	2,500-no max	3 mth Local Branch
Midland	8.11	8.11	8.48	10,000-no max	1 mth 071-250 2305
	7.87	7.87	8.38	10,000-no max	3 mth 071-250 2305
Halfway	11.50	11.50	8.18	10,000-50,000	1 mth 071-728 1000
	8.36	8.36	8.36	10,000-24,000	3 mth 071-728 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland MNC	7.98	8.59	6.88	2,500	none 081-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	7.56	7.56	8.06	2,500	none 0804 288891
Commercial Union	4.80	6.00	4.00	2,000	none 071 628 6543
Clifford	8.98	8.98	8.98	1,000	none 051 568 2078
Lloyds MCA	8.58	8.43	8.23	2,500	none 0272 430023
Midland MCA	7.13	7.26	8.80	2,000	none
Halfway	7.00	7.19	5.75	500	none 071-674 3874
Special Reserve	7.98	7.91	6.35	2,500	none 081-556 8525
TSB Bank	8.84	8.84	8.81	2,000	none 071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.16	4.82	1 min	none
Best buy - largest social:					
Northdown Ang	9.50	9.50	8.92	1 min	none
Portsmouth	9.50	9.50	7.95	800 min	none
Chesham & Ch	10.28	10.28	8.22	2,500 min	none
Yorkshire	11.50	11.50	8.18	20,000 min	60 day
Stirling & West	11.25	11.25	8.00	25,000 min	1 year
Best buy - all social:					
Chesham & Ch	10.28	10.28	8.22	2,500 min	none
St Pauline	9.50	9.50	7.95	2,000 min	50 day
Norwich & Peter	10.53	11.24	8.98	10,000 min	30 day
West Bromwich	10.88	10.88	8.71	10,000 min	6 mths
Merchiston	11.50	11.50	8.28	5,000 min	1 year
Cash/Charge Accounts					
Card Cash	4.98	5.05	4.04	25 min	Raise rise
Cash Plus	6.18	6.18	4.86	25 min	with larger
Northdown	3.38	3.38	2.70	1 min	balance
Anglia Plus					
Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 5766 for further details					
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	£-10,000	8 day 041-648 4555
Investment A/c	12.25	9.19	7.36	£-25,000	1 mth 041-648 4555
Income Bond	13.50	10.13	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 0253 60151
Supersaver Bond	13.50	10.13	8.10	£1-400-450	1 mth 041-648 4555
5th Issue Govt	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-1,000	8 day 081-586 4900
Yearly Plan	8.50	8.50	8.50	20-500/min	14 day 081-586 4900
General					
Extension Rate	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	5 yrs 041-648 4555
Capital Bond	11.50	8.22	6.80		
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Comet Ltd	9.80	9.80	8.16	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from 1st day
Financial Ltd	9.80	9.80	8.16	5,000 min	2 yrs Chase de
Financial A/c	9.50	9.50	8.08	5,000 min	3 yrs Vero
Financial A/c	9.50	9.50	7.91	5,000 min	4 yrs 071 404 5766
HSB Savings	9.50	9.50	7.91	5,000 min	5 yrs for details
RPI (Feb. 90-91)	+4.9%				
Basic Rate Rate	10.0%				
Personal Loan	24.9%				
Credit Card	19.5-31%				
Holiday rates					
Spanish Peninsular					178.00
French Peninsular					8.90
Greek Peninsular					310.00
Italian Peninsular					215.00
12.0% for balances below £500. Best 2% of interest tax free. Interest account for withdrawals of £100 or more. Annual holding up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of previous interest-free rate. Rate changes to 12.0% with effect from April 27.					
Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY					
FIRST TIME BUYERS					
Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes	
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Britannia	11.75	negotiable	95	After 2.00% discount for 1st 6 months	
0536 566999	11.95	negotiable	95	Rate fixed for 1 year	
0252 458181	11.95	to 250K	95	After 1.55% discount for 1st 6 months	
Yorkshire 0274 724222					
BANKS					
Allied Irish Bank	11.90	£15K+	95	After 1% discount for 1st year	
0536 522524					
OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)					
Save & Prosper	13.90	£15-500K	95	Rate shown after 1% discount for 1st year	
071 658 1717					
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SURNAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____

DO YOU HAVE A NATIONAL INSURANCE POLICY? YES ☐ NO ☐ IF YOU HAVE A NATIONAL INSURANCE POLICY YOU MUST WEAR IT

DO YOU HAVE OR HAVE YOU HAD AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT WITH THE SOCIETY IN THE LAST 5 YEARS? YES ☐ NO ☐ IF YES, PLEASE GIVE DETAILS OF THE ACCOUNT AND THE DATE WHEN IT WAS OPENED

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By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

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• **What is the purpose of the study?**

Garrison Savannah poised for complete golden double

December, albeit following a successful first season over fences that culminated in winning the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham. While some will point to Garrison Savannah's relative lack of experience (he has run in only eight chases), he has never fallen or even looked like doing so.

Having won a Gold Cup, his class is plain to see. Interestingly, his trainer Jenny Pitman, who has already won the National with Corbiere, had this race in mind when she bought him rather than Cheltenham.

Garrison Savannah has won before on soft ground, but never over a distance so far nor over obstacles as big. If

son Savannah did Cheltenham three when the odds were against him. With the odds against him, he is a much more reliable bet, setting the likes of the 15lb weight on 15lb worse than they to clash in British National or Gold Cup later.

handicaps were the benefit of after Garrison had won the Gold Cup.

weights were published before his Cheltenham when he had run at Haydock in

you back him today, those are the risks you take. Since he is by Random Shot, who was an out-and-out stayer on the flat, the distance should not pose a problem. Nor should the obstacles, granted normal luck in running, which is always a vital ingredient of success at Liverpool.

While some will be concerned that Garrison Savannah had a hard race when winning at Cheltenham, that must be countered by pointing out that it was his second race of the season. So he does not have many miles on the clock and that can be a major factor at this relatively advanced stage of the season.

Now that the ground is soft,

Bossanova Boy, Rinsus and Ten Of Spades could easily form the hard core of his opposition, and they are preferred for the places in that order.

Even a good mudlark like Bossanova Boy, however, should not be capable of giving Garrison Savannah a fight if the handicapper has been correct in his re-assessment.

Rinsus will not be brushed aside easily with only 10st 6lb on his back. The ground was too firm for his liking when he was third behind Mr Frisk and Durham Edition 12 months ago.

Now he enters the fray having been given a thorough preparation by Gordon Richards, who has already won the race twice, with Lucius and Halo Dandy. Neale Dougherty, who rode Halo Dandy, is Rinsus's jockey and he has been riding like a man inspired this season.

The love affair that Americans have had with the National goes back a long time. John Horne has crossed the Atlantic again in the hope seeing Bigsun, a half-brother to the dual Scottish National winner Andromeda, give him the thrill of a life.

Unlike last year when he finished sixth, Bigsun missed Cheltenham in order to be fresh for today. On better ground, he would have been my second choice. My fear is that it is now too soft for him and I also have that same reservation about last year's first and second, Mr Frisk and Durham Edition.

Statistics point to Bigsun

By JACK WATERMAN

BOOKMAKERS used to lay 4-1 against a horse completing the Seagrass National. It was a fair reflection of the statistic which gives a horse only an average of 13 chances in 40 of finishing, let alone winning. A further unpleasant fact is that tonight's favourites have a dismal record.

The last to prevail was Gritter in 1982. But second favourites are better and the price bracket from 16-1 downwards has been profitable recently, providing 16 winners in the past 23 runnings.

HANDICAP: More than half of today's runners, from Austin Dot downwards, are on the minimum 10 stone mark and therefore carry more weight than they should. Horses with a proper handicap mark statistically stand the best chance. The range from 10st 3lb to 11st 5lb (13 of today's field) has provided 13 of the last 15 winners.

AGE: This seems to be a diminishing factor in the selection of a likely winner. While nine-year-olds still have the best record historically, ten-year-olds to 12-year-olds have done equally well in recent years. Rod Ruma, in 1973, was the last eight-year-old to win and this counts against Garrison Savannah becoming only the second horse since Golden Miller to win both Gold Cup and Grand National in the same season.

JOCKEYS: Richard Dunwoody (Bigsun), Neale Dougherty (Rinsus) and Chris Grant (Durham Edition) have the best Aintree records. Peter Scudamore, who rode Bossanova Boy, is competing in his eleventh National but has never been nearer than sixth to his attempt to emulate his father, Michael, who rode Oxo to victory in 1959.

Summing up, the records give a narrow vote to Bigsun, to win from Rinsus and Bossanova Boy.

Arthur Stephenson's Blazing Walker, Chris Grant, leaps boldly over the last on his way to victory in the Glenlivet Melling Chase at Liverpool yesterday

Selections

By Thunderer

1.50 Young Spirit.
2.25 Morley Street.
3.20 Rinsus (nap).
4.15 Good For A Laugh.
4.50 Crystal Spirit.
5.25 Villa Rocca.

By Michael Seely

2.25 Morley Street. 3.20 RINSUS (nap). 4.50 Crystal Spirit.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.20 GARRISON SAVANNAH.

IN MORGAN ANITREE CHASE (Limited handicap; grade II; 6:2m) (12 runners)

1.50 Young Spirit. 2.25 Morley Street. 3.20 RINSUS (nap). 4.50 Crystal Spirit.

FOCUS

1.50 Young Spirit. 2.25 Morley Street. 3.20 RINSUS (nap). 4.50 Crystal Spirit.

EMAN AINTREE HURDLE (Grade I; 231.214; 2m 4f) (9 runners)

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FOCUS

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Chance to win golfing day out

THE TIMES today presents the opportunity for two of our golfing readers to play on the new Edinburgh course at Westworth in the special event preceding the Volvo PGA championship next month.

The winners of our competition will play at the Times team in the new Corporate Cup at Westworth on Thursday, May 23, the day before the start of the Volvo PGA tournament. For each of the three runners-up in our contest, there will be a prize of a day out for two people as the guests of Volvo at

VOLVO PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Westworth on Sunday, May 26. They will enjoy full hospitality for the day, with lunch and a close-up view of some of Europe's finest players on the Burna Road course.

The competition is restricted to golfers with a handicap of 18 or better and who are members of a recognised golf club.

To enter, study the questions below, write your answers on the entry form and send it to: Volvo PGA competition, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E9 9QN, to arrive by Monday, April 15, 1991.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Who finished first in the Volvo European Tour order of merit last year?
2. Who was Tony Jacklin's immediate predecessor as captain of the British and Europe Ryder Cup team?
3. Who was the first non-American to win the US Masters tournament at Augusta?



4. Who (above) won the British Women's Open championship in 1990?
5. When was the West Course at Westworth opened for play?
6. Who won the Volvo PGA championship at Westworth last year?

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Golf Club _____
Handicap _____

ANSWERS

1. Nick Faldo
2. Nick Faldo
3. Tiger Woods
4. Nick Faldo
5. 1988
6. Nick Faldo

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, Volvo or their agents are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

Faceless wonders face the hangman's drop

LAURA THOMPSON

Desert Orchid has never run in the Grand National. Arkle never ran in either the Duchess of Westminster would not enter him. The Grand National is the most popular of British horse races, yet the most popular British steeplechaser rarely takes part in it.

The public, which raises hell at any suggestion that the National might be stopped, raises equally fiery hell at the suggestion that Desert Orchid might be subjected to the race.

Why should this be so? In his recent prime the horse could jump like a stag and could surely have cleared those castle wall fences with greater ease than most of the horses entered in the race.

I can conjure very easily an image of his benign acknowledgment of the ecstatic cries that would herald his felicitous gallop towards the Aintree winning post — the mythical white charger with the anthropomorphic sensibility, setting the seal upon his own mythology and that of the Grand National.

But it would seem that people could see another image more clearly. They could see the noble competitiveness of their adopted equine son belittled into a scramble for survival; could see his stag's leap muffled and broken by the jumble of felled horses and jockeys beneath his hooves; could see him stumbling exhaustedly over the 5ft 2in of The Chair; could see the smooth grey neck broken by the hangman's drop of Becher's Brook. Victory would have meant virtually dedication for both horse and race.

What might defeat have meant for them?

A comparable risk, in that the horse was held in similar regard, was taken in 1977 with Red Rum. He was more ordinary to look at, more workmanlike in his jumping, and he had already run four successful Nationals; still, he was greatly loved, and for the four and a half miles, nine and a half minutes of that race, I felt as sick with fear as if I were watching that madman who crossed the Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

The spectacle of Red Rum's final victory was extremely moving: one of those freakish, touched-by-God victories, like Martina Navratilova's at Wimbledon last year, like the Ashes in 1981, the sort of victory which is instantly legendary, instantly resonant beyond itself, the sort of victory which renders sport mythopoetic. In this case, however, my own gloriously

melting reaction was composed of one part happiness to three parts relief. The thought "What if..." still lingered.

Red Rum won his battle with the Grand National: obviously he was the right sort of horse, and he was lucky, as all great sportsmen need to be. Desert Orchid will never try his luck. He has been protected by the fact that he is not a faceless horse. But the anguish that I felt in 1977 on behalf of Red Rum, the celebrity, should have been spread far wider, to the 41 other faceless horses, ten of whom finished the course, one of whom died: canon fodder, bravely and unwittingly hurrying themselves against this remorseless race.

The National simply eliminates a certain number of horses — normally about three-quarters of them — until manageable proportions are reached.

This process is inexorable and indeterminate. It is also full-blooded and exciting. Exhilarated by the earthiness, the toughness, the muck-sweat, people get understandably carried away and find themselves regarding these felled horses as disposable, as dead wood, as a lost temper.

I am not a fanatic who goes around disabbling women in fur coats. All sports contain within them the element of risk. Horses do not only die in the Grand National.

Supporters of the race can cite two cases this week — The Thinker, who was destroyed after shattering a leg on the gallops, and Smith's Cracker, who broke his neck in an Aintree hurdle race — as evidence. But that does not make it all right for horses to die in the National.

The Grand National is a great sporting tradition, one of those hardy annuals which

flower every spring, like the Boat Race and the FA Cup final, it reassures that however much things change, things do not change. It is a great tradition because the British character makes it so.

It is not, as those who object to modifications to the course would have it, a great tradition because it is the hardest steeplechase in the world and because horses that win it are therefore the equine equivalent of people who walk from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Horses that win it are often incapable of winning another race. Foinavon won in 1967 because a pile-up caused by a loose horse left him to jump Becher's Brook on his own; the significance of his victory is comparable with that of a Formula One driver who wins because all the other cars have crashed into each other.

Only Red Rum has been

exalted by the Grand National (and it by him, incidentally) whereas the Cup makes of its victors heroes: a thought which I me to another, that the might be of better quality were less of a struggle, if it were fewer horses jumping smaller fences for a shindance.

Can the struggle really be the point, the vast bargaining together in deep quest to clear the fences churning blur of hedge turf and flank and whip tumble and trample, the for survival?

If it were people only were waging such against their own, then I might say, all right we see how far they can themselves, that is a sporting goal, an atom you like, to emulate the run from Marathon to can. But horses — horses no choice, and that is unanswerable.

GOLF

Heavy rain causes abandonment of pre-Masters event

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, HOUSTON

THE best laid schemes of 'mice and men' gang aft a-gley. Duke Butler, tournament director, had the words of Burns as much as the sound of raindrops ringing in his ears when for the second successive day bad weather caused play to be suspended leading to the abandonment of the Houston Open yesterday.

"We did a 20-year weather study that proved this date is better than our old one which was in early May," Butler said.

More than six inches of rain in 24 hours left The Woodlands course flooded and the players frustrated. For two mornings Nick Faldo had woken to a Sam alarm call. He played one hole on Thursday, none yesterday. "They abandoned play before I had even finished my breakfast grits," he said.

Faldo is in good humour. He has Georgia on his mind with the prospect of a record third successive triumph in the Masters at Augusta National. "It's desperately unfortunate for the people here who have worked so hard for one year to put the tournament on," Faldo said, "but

it's no big deal for me not to be playing. Sure, it would have been nice to get in competitive practice. But you've got to take it as it comes. It's simply means I go to Augusta early."

"Quite honestly I had a wicked attack of flu the week before I came out here. I didn't feel one hundred per cent until last Sunday at The Players Championship. So when I got up here I worked really hard on my game on Monday and Tuesday. I'm well golfer. I managed two hours practice putting on Thursday during a break in the rain and I tried to be a little more aggressive. That's what I'll need to be next week."

The last occasion when a US Tour event was washed out was in 1966. Coincidentally, it was the Houston Open. Arnold Palmer suggested to all the players that they return later in the year. They did and Palmer won.

Tournament officials announced yesterday that the event would be rescheduled for October 23 to 26, which is

the week before the Tour Championship at Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Sandy Lyle and Roman Rafferty both accepted to compete here tomorrow weather permitting in a "scramble" competition involving 16 teams of three players. Severiano Ballesteros, José María Olazábal and Faldo seemed more likely to move on to Augusta.

Lyle said: "The officials here have been very good to me, especially Duke Butler, so I am very happy to give them my full support. Meanwhile, Rafferty is short of competitive practice though looking forward to the Masters in which he finished joint fourteenth last year."

P. J. Boastworth Jr, one of the most prominent and influential personalities in golf, has died, aged 63, following a short illness. Boastworth was for many years executive director of rules and competition for the United States Golf Association and was generally considered the world's leading authority on the Rules of Golf.

Nottinghamshire pair rise to the occasion

By JOHN HENNESSY

GARY Shaw and Clive Radford, the back markers in the Central England fouromes at Woodhall Spa, successfully survived the first hurdle yesterday but fell at the next.

They were beaten 4 and 3 by Tim Clarke and Terry Dilks, of Nottinghamshire, who rose handsomely above the two shots they received on handicap.

Shaw (scratch) and Radford (one handicap), the leading Derbyshire pair, gained entry for the first time and had to get through stableford qualifying, which they won with 34 points.

With Dilks, who played off five, solidly supporting his partner's scratch game, the Nottinghamshire pair took an early lead in the matchplay which they never relinquished. Radford made amends for two early lapses with a superb wood out of the heather for an

eagle three to win the first stroke hole, the sixth, but the Nottinghamshire pair won three holes in a row from the ninth to go four up.

Radford holed from eight feet for a two at the 12th and by the 13th there was again only two holes in it. But Clarke, the outstanding player, apparently hit the winning shot, a wedge from 120 yards out to two feet for a closing birdie at the 15th.

RESULTS: Second round: T Dilks and T Clarke (two 20s) G Shaw and C Radford (two 20s) 4 and 3; M Young and D Long (two 20s) 4 and 3; M Smith and G D Pratt (two 10s) 10 and 10; W Miller and D G Powell (two 10s) 10 and 10; S J Cunnell and J A Wilson and P Christie (two 10s) 4 and 3; S J Cox and P Birtles (two 10s) 4 and 3; J G Cole and R Beckett (two 10s) 4 and 3; D E Hooton (two 20s) D P Barker and L V Farrow (two 20s) 2 and 1; M G St George and I Farrow (two 20s) 2 and 1; M G St George and I Farrow (two 20s) 2 and 1; M G St George and I Farrow (two 20s) 2 and 1.

All but greens go down well for Nicklaus

PHOENIX, Arizona — Jack Nicklaus, the defending champion, had few complaints after the first round of the \$800,000 Tradition at Desert Mountain, north of here, on Thursday (Patricia Davies writes).

"I played quite well," was the great man's assessment of his 71, one under par, which left him six shots behind Phil Rodgers, the pot-bellied, very humorous Californian who led after a course record 65.

Rodgers had eight birdies and found putting easy, whereas Nicklaus was disappointed with his form on the greens, having taken three putts from three feet at the 17th.

Lee Trevino shot a 75. LEADERS FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US and 100 yards): 1 Rodgers, 64 (9); 2 Nicklaus, 71 (9); 3 Arner, 72 (9); 4 Smith, 73 (9); 5 Jones, 74 (9); 6 Baker, 75 (9); 7 Farrow, 76 (9); 8 St George, 77 (9); 9 Cole, 78 (9); 10 Barker, 79 (9); 11 Powell, 80 (9); 12 Cunnell, 81 (9); 13 Christie, 82 (9); 14 Birtles, 83 (9); 15 Cox, 84 (9); 16 Beckett, 85 (9); 17 Hooton, 86 (9); 18 Farrow, 87 (9); 19 St George, 88 (9); 20 Dilks, 89 (9); 21 Shaw, 90 (9); 22 Radford, 91 (9); 23 Young, 92 (9); 24 Long, 93 (9); 25 Pratt, 94 (9); 26 Miller, 95 (9); 27 Powell, 96 (9); 28 Cunnell, 97 (9); 29 Christie, 98 (9); 30 Birtles, 99 (9); 31 Cox, 100 (9); 32 Beckett, 101 (9); 33 Hooton, 102 (9); 34 Farrow, 103 (9); 35 St George, 104 (9); 36 Dilks, 105 (9); 37 Shaw, 106 (9); 38 Radford, 107 (9); 39 Young, 108 (9); 40 Long, 109 (9); 41 Pratt, 110 (9); 42 Miller, 111 (9); 43 Powell, 112 (9); 44 Cunnell, 113 (9); 45 Christie, 114 (9); 46 Birtles, 115 (9); 47 Cox, 116 (9); 48 Beckett, 117 (9); 49 Hooton, 118 (9); 50 Farrow, 119 (9); 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SPORT

Bailey keeps the punters waiting on Mr Frisk

By RICHARD EVANS

PUNTERS will wager an estimated £55 million on the Grand National today but will not know until the last moment if Mr Frisk, last year's winner, is in the line-up.

The participation of Kim Bailey's 12-year-old chaser depends on the turbulent spring weather, and his trainer is prepared to risk a fine of £1,150 for withdrawing at any time today rather than risk running on unsuitable ground.

After overnight rain, Aintree was blessed with sunshine and a drying wind for much of yesterday. The official going on the National course was changed yesterday from soft to good to soft. But further heavy showers are forecast before 3.30 this afternoon when 40 runners start the annual 4½-mile marathon.

Mr Frisk has been in exceptional form at home and Bailey is anxious to give his horse the opportunity to emulate Red Rum and win two successive Grand Nationals. "He is a definite runner at the moment. The ground is soft but not heavy, but if we get a tremendous amount of rain tomorrow and it becomes heavy he will not run. If it pours down two hours before the race and it gets very soft, I shall pull him out."

"I know I risk a fine but I would be very disappointed if that happened because I have been open throughout about his chances of running. My first duty is to look after the horse. Four-and-a-half miles in heavy ground will kill anything."

If Mr Frisk is withdrawn, Marcus Armytage will take the ride on Run And Skip. Brendan Powell, original choice for John Spearing's chaser, is out for the season after an operation to relieve a perforated stomach. The internal injury followed a nasty fall on Thursday.

A global television audience of 400 million is expected for the world's most famous steeplechase and three horses are likely to be contesting favouritism - Rinsus, Bonanza Boy and Garrison Savannah. For those who find picking the winner a doddle, choosing the number of finishers may pose an extra challenge. Ten horses completing the gruelling slog over 30 fences is 7-1 favourite with Corals.

If you believe in remarkable coincidences, William Hill is offering 1,000-1 against the finishing order of the first three horses being the same as last year, and 500-1 against Mrs Pitman's runners claiming first, second and third.

Durham Edition, second in 1988 and 1990, is 20-1 with Ladbrokes to claim the runner-up spot for the third time.

The big betting on the National centred yesterday on soft ground horses. Evapoek Token was cut from 40-1 to 28-1 after one bet of £1,000 each way and Yahoo, subject of a wager of £500 each way, was pruned from 40-1 to 25-1 by Corals.

In praise of bookmakers, page 8
A to Z of runners, page 32
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Horse crazy: Crammer has no shortage of admirers on his safe arrival at Aintree racecourse for today's Grand National

Gullit not for sale to Real

MILAN (AP) - AC Milan have rejected an approach by Real Madrid for Ruud Gullit, the Dutch international forward, and coach Arrigo Sacchi, a club spokesman said yesterday.

The possible transfer of Gullit and of the coach was discussed at a meeting between Silvio Berlusconi, the Milan president, and Ramon Mendoza, the Real president, on Thursday.

Mendoza is seeking a new coach and new players for in the wake of the disappointing results this season.

However, both Gullit and Sacchi could leave Milan next season, in the big reshuffle planned by Berlusconi following this year's flop in the European Cup and in the Italian league and cup.

Sacchi has led Milan to a string of triumphs in the Italian league and in the international cups since 1988 and planned to leave the team at the end of the season.

AC MILAN yesterday formally appealed against the one-year suspension from European competitions imposed by Uefa last month.

FA ready to lead the way to super league

By STUART JONES

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A REVOLUTION unprecedented in the 104-year history of the Football League promises to take place on Monday. The Football Association council is almost certain to approve in principle a proposal, put forward by Graham Kelly, its chief executive, that an independent premier division containing 18 clubs should be formed as soon as possible.

The move is at present no more than a radical and adventurous idea. By the start of the 1992 season, though, the country's strongest clubs could be competing within a refined and elite system which would be a marketing man's dream and could generate untold wealth.

Money, as the 92 club chairmen have consistently illustrated, tends to talk with the loudest voice in football and none of the principal clubs could afford to refuse the invitation. It is believed that

many have, in private discussions, already indicated that they would be willing to join the organised breakaway.

A so-called super league has been suggested before but always by the clubs themselves. Since the FA is courageously offering a lead and the promise of huge financial rewards, they are more likely now to feel compelled to follow.

They are convinced that for too long they have been restrained by the wishes of those in the lower divisions. The appeal of existing in an autonomous body, and so being largely in control of their own destiny, will be especially irresistible.

It is thought that Kelly will suggest that the premier division should be run not by his own organisation but by an independent figure. It would be ideally controlled by a commissioner, as is the case in the National Football League in the United States.

The fine details have yet to be settled but the door to the elite group would not be closed. Initially the top 18 clubs would qualify automatically. Thereafter, those seeking promotion would be asked to meet certain defined criteria, concerning the standard of facilities, amenities and involvement in the local community.

Clubs such as Luton Town and Wimbledon, neither of whose stadiums might be seen as adequate, would be allowed to stay, for instance, but would probably be given a limited

period in which to improve their grounds. Most clubs must soon comply with the demands published in Justice Taylor's report anyway.

There will also be a clause stipulating that the clubs concerned must report financially to the governing body. The problems which have beset Tottenham Hotspur would consequently be avoided. The whole package is based on the principles under which the game has been run in what was West Germany.

The League, which would be left in control only of the remaining divisions, can be expected rigorously to oppose the plan. Yet its power is likely to be so diminished that it would not have sufficient strength to block it.

The League's own proposals, the first item on the council's agenda on Monday, are expected to be rejected. Its officials, who insist that they should have equal representation within a reformed executive committee, may find that they will be matched numerically not by the FA but by the premier division.

David Dent, the League's secretary, admitted earlier this week that the increase of the first division to 22 clubs next season, an idea promoted by a member of his own management committee, was wrong.

The benefits are so obvious as to be beyond dispute. The nation's best players, who will later this year embark on an absurdly overloaded programme, will subsequently carry an appreciably lighter

burden. It should be no surprise, therefore, that Graham Taylor welcomes the prospect of a premier division.

Since there will be room in the new schedule for four free Saturdays, England's manager will spend more time with his squad before internationals. Those who doubt the significance of the national side's success should consider the interest generated during, and since, the last World Cup finals.

The clubs left out of the premier division need not be unduly concerned. The League has shown a propensity for inventing spurious competitions, such as the Zenith Data Systems Cup, merely for financial purposes. There is no reason why they should not do so to satisfy the needs of the poor.

The top of the ancient structure, largely untouched for more than a century, is at last about to be dismantled. The League, in taking an initiative last August, can claim responsibility for provoking Kelly to take action but even it could not have foreseen how dramatic and historic his response would be.

England were among six candidates to stage the 1998 World Cup finals as the deadline for entries neared at Fifa headquarters in Zurich last night. The other five bids came from Brazil, Switzerland, France, Morocco and India.

Australians toil hard before the downpour

From JOHN WOODCOCK
IN PORT OF SPAIN

TRINIDAD'S traditional cricketing weather allowed only 23 overs to be bowled before tea when the third Test match began here yesterday.

In those overs, Australia made 55 for one. They had been put in, Richards remembering, no doubt, how West Indies were very soon 29 for five when they themselves batted first against England on the same ground a year ago.

The only morning stoppage came after 85 minutes and lasted for a quarter of an hour. The water-logging rain began just as the players should have been coming out for the afternoon session. In no time the outfield was flooded, though this did not necessarily mean the end of play on what is a fast-drying ground.

This is the 28th Test match Australia have played in the West Indies and the first in which they have not included a specialist spinner. When they came here for the first time, in 1954-5, Ian Johnson and Richie Benaud did most of the bowling and took their

share of wickets. Now, with Stephen Waugh being preferred to Greg Matthews and Peter Taylor, their attack comprised Reid, McDermott and Hughes, with what help they would receive from Border and Waugh.

For a side one-down in the series it was an unashamedly cautious selection, indicative of the importance of their not losing again here. For the first time in two years, too, they had reason to be concerned about their batting. Not surprisingly, the Waughes became the first twins to play Test cricket, let alone in the same match. The only other

brothers to have together for Australia, century are the Chaps and Greg, who were ground yesterday, w television.

Having had shaved, Richards' toss bearing a striking blance to Marvell with the ground lish bath, and the Oval being a juic bowl on the first Richards' decision i, predictable, and in over Australia los caught low down slip. Although it lool, pitch, there was enoi Taylor to keep pl missing through F opening overs.

Australia had, in tending to bat, had the toss, having been to find how dry the They had known the lead to a testing mo, now, it proved, runs came mostly of edges, usually to th Ambrose beat Marst four times before a him, and Boon was getting off the mark.

But there was no Australian resolution wunch Taylor play noticeably be mutuating off his eventually through off the back foot middle of the bat.

Despite threats of because of the omission from the dian side of Bri Trinidad's young bathe the crowd was a good

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Dressing down has its appeal for blazer wearer

Perhaps one of sport's greatest attractions for the world is the way in which it gives the old an ever-present opportunity for sneering at the young. Any time any athlete does anything at all to attract the notice of the world, he or she can be sure of the vast weight of disapproval that will follow: they never did that in my day, when the world was young and life was altogether more rosy. Sport provides absolutely endless opportunities for pomposity: what athletes wear, how they cut their hair, their intensity, their lack of intensity, and on and on.

Many of these pomposity-lovers wear blazers, administer their sports, and positively loathe the players, who daily commit the crime of being young and lusty as eagles. Let them play some kind of daft juvenile prank, and the blazer boys turn black with wrath.

This column, then, salutes John Lombardi, president of the University of Florida, which recently staged the 48th annual Florida Relays. For it was recently revealed that the main event was accompanied by an unofficial and clandestine event organized by the athletes themselves - the second annual Nude Relays, which took place with 45 participants on an unlit

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

track in the early hours of last Sunday.

The New York Times Service reported that Lombardi's response was: "In the range of crises that confront us, I can't say that I put that at the top of my priority list. I'm sure there's something wrong with it, but I haven't found out what it is yet. Next year I'll be more vigilant. Maybe they'll issue me an invitation. I don't know that I'd run, but I'd come and watch." Congratulations to Villanova University, Pennsylvania, which reportedly won the Nude Relays.

It's the Grand National Day and it's also high time this column gave a winner. My racing snout, leaping like a person inspired from his brilliant new horse after a five-mile session, dived to the telephone to recommend Rinsus to win, and Docklands Express each way.

One of the toughest jobs in sport must be the manager of the Albanian national football team. Their last foray

abroad saw them lose 4-0 in goals and 7-0 in players. They started with a squad of 16 and returned with a mere nine. The match was against France in the European championship. The defections took place across the face of Europe: three players defected before the game, at a stop-over in Switzerland. Four more made their getaways in Paris. Josef Cjerci picking up one of the season's odder footballing injuries when he was struck by a car and slightly hurt as he made his break morning. A 15-seat mini-bus was there to take them away - but unfortunately, only six of the squad were able to get into it. They are very big ladies indeed. One of them is 6ft 4in. Finally they were all squeezed into two mini-buses. At least we can now understand their problems with paying for their own food.

I hear hot news from the New Zealand squad. Naturally, they wanted to exploit the New Zealand's traditional psychological advantage by performing the haka before every game - this being the Maori war dance. In the more straight-laced Maori circles, the idea of women performing a haka is as difficult to handle as the idea of women playing rugby is in other enclaves of tradition. Indeed two players in the New Zealand party, a Samoan and a Cook Islander, have been refused permission to perform the haka by their tribal leaders. But times change: and a Maori chief has given the other women full permission to haka their opponents into submission before every match.

Meanwhile, the Japanese side threatens to be the team of the tournament. It includes players

who stand at four feet nine and every player on the team wears a scrum-cap. Indeed, been told that the Tokyo team all play in pink scrum. That's one for the All Blacks copy.

History has been made. The annual spring grand tournament featured American bout at this, the level of the Japanese games. The winners in 1991 were both Hawaiian. Akebono up-and-coming star, took a mighty 37-stone Konishi put it another way, this was Rowan against Salavasa Atianee. Akebono won, upset, for Konishi is the ranked foreigner ever to samo. "It's like a dream true," Akebono said.

Good taste special: during time-out at a Miami Heat ball game on February 28, the team mascot, chased former dressed as an Arab, him in the middle of the court, him up and led him away hangman's noose.

Press Gorbachev

Work